

NEWS

Improvements to Railway Station Area

Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council and Network Rail have been working together to make improvements to Leamington Station, Station Approach and the surrounding area.



Working in partnership with Jephson Housing they have recently cleaned, painted and applied an anti-graffiti coating to the wall and fencing that runs from the station underpass through to Avenue Road.

The station project is ongoing and, with the support of Network Rail, they hope to make improvements to the condition and cleanliness of the underpass itself over the forthcoming months.

DID YOU KNOW?

Conservation Advice and Information The Conservation and Design Team at Warwick District Council provide advice on a range of conservation issues including:

- whether a property is a listed building or in a conservation area;
- detailed guidance and advice to applicants proposing new development within historic areas or works to listed buildings or buildings within Conservation Areas;
- information about conservation grants; and,
- promoting and celebrating historic buildings and areas.

Leaflets giving general advice on a range of conservation issues can be found on the Warwick District Council website at: <http://bit.ly/byBAoQ>

For further conservation information or advice, please call **01926 412 717** or email conservation@warwickdc.gov.uk

New scheme offers graduate internships at no cost to the employer

IN-Place is a new programme designed to encourage employers to take on a graduate internship - at no cost to the employer. Under the scheme, businesses are offered the opportunity to engage the services of a suitable graduate for a period of up to 4 weeks - and the scheme pays their wages. The provision to extend the internship is also available at minimum cost if required. Employers will get support from the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham throughout the process.

Why the scheme is good for employers:

- Benefit from the services of a highly educated individual who is enthusiastic, motivated and keen to learn and contribute to your company.
- Resource short term assignments or project-related work in a flexible and cost effective way
- Gauge the calibre of a graduate's work both as a short term resource and a prelude to longer term employment - risk free.
- Experience the fresh ideas and new perspective that a graduate will bring and offer an insight into the latest thinking in a specific business or technology area.
- Engage graduates in a supportive programme providing both administrative and financial support ensuring a "hassle-free" internship.

Warwick District Council is working with Coventry and Warwick Universities to encourage graduates to live and work in our area after graduation. During the summer, the student interns at Warwick District Council will be surveying major local employers about the employment opportunities available to graduates. If you would like to participate in the survey, or are thinking about providing an internship, call Ray Smith on 01926 456029 or Kate Devereux on **01926 333222** or visit: <http://bit.ly/ctgrWI>

Student Community Representatives Scheme launched



With funding from the Town Council of Leamington Spa Community Fund, and Warwick District Council's Small Grants Scheme, the Students' Union has launched a pilot scheme to bring University students closer to residents in South Leamington.

A group of five volunteer Student Community Representatives will liaise

between University students, the Students' Union and local residents. This team of trained students promote the needs of the student community and provide information on safety, security, housing and the environment, with the aim of developing good relations between students and residents of that area. The volunteers have been selected for their positive attitude to the local community and their interest in Leamington Spa, where a large number of University students live.

For more info: <http://bit.ly/9SwGhD>

NEWS

Deep Cleaning of Parade

Working in partnership Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council, recently undertook a deep clean of the Parade, from Clarendon Avenue to Regent Street.



The deep clean removed general dirt and detritus, chewing gum and beverage stains from the footpath and has greatly improved the appearance of one of the Town's primary retail areas.

The work was completed by Alpha Power Cleaning Ltd www.alphapowercleaning.co.uk

CWT Training branching out in Leamington

One of Coventry and Warwickshire's largest training companies has completed a major expansion by opening a new centre in Leamington.



CWT Chamber Training has branched out to offer courses in Leamington, having moved into Brandon House on Holly Walk in the town centre.

A team of specialist trainers will deliver vocational courses in the centre and on employer premises. These include Early Years Care, Adult Care, Business and Administration, ICT, Customer Service, Hospitality and Management. Having combined forces with Employment Training Warwickshire, CWT Chamber

Training is now one of the largest training providers in Coventry and Warwickshire with over 600 Apprentices located with employers across the area.

Executive Director Sally Lucas says, "We are delighted to have a strong presence in the heart of Leamington as we recognise what great opportunities there are in Warwickshire for CWT Chamber Training services. The expansion will allow us to support businesses in developing the skills of their workforce and widen Apprenticeship opportunities for young people in the area. We will work with school and college leavers, guiding them onto career pathways where they gain qualifications and workplace skills which provide employers with a vital pool of local talent".

CWT Chamber Training has established a strong reputation as a leading training and development provider in the region offering flexible and accredited courses for young people and adults.

Businesses interested in finding out more should call CWT Chamber Training on **024 7623 1122** or log on to www.cwtcov.co.uk

Top TIP - Celebrating an anniversary or milestone in your business?

Why not use the opportunity to run a small event, inviting local dignitaries and people who can help spread the word about your business? Take some good photos and accompany these with a well written press release to all the local newspapers. Keep the press release short and to the point and with a well-chosen image, this is a great way of getting some free local publicity.

Offers

Corporate Wellness Memberships

Club Wellness Membership 80p per day for Corporate Members (min 4 members). Includes gym, swim and classes - all day everyday. This is a monthly saving of £9 month (£31 reduced to £22). Join before July 1st and get one month free! Pick up a brochure from Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre, call **01926 882 083** or visit: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/wellness

Discount for Local Businesses at Royal Spa Centre

The Royal Spa Centre is offering a group booking discount for local businesses. Book 5 tickets and get 2 free. Available on selected shows only. Perfect for staff parties & client entertaining. Fully licensed bar. Call the Box Office on **01926 334 418**.



Improved Rail Connection to London

Work has already started on a £250 million upgrade of the existing Chiltern Railways route to reduce journey times by 20 per cent. Adrian Shooter, Chairman of Chiltern Railways, says, "The journey time from Leamington will be just 67 minutes into London Marylebone, a benefit to all our existing passengers and we hope to attract many more new ones too. Our project will be completed by next year providing an improved service to the people of Warwickshire."

The service runs between Birmingham Snow Hill and London Marylebone, and stops at Leamington and Warwick.

For more info: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/mainline

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 3

JUNE 2010

Shaping the Future for Leamington



Pam Dunsdon welcoming the new Chair of the Town Centre Partnership Gerry McManus, Manager of Royal Priors Shopping Centre.

An extensive review of the partnership and the work that it delivers has now been completed by Mosaic Partnership. Involving more than sixty key stakeholders in the town through individual interviews and a structured workshop event, the final report outlines three key priorities for the partnership:

- Build a robust and sustainable Town Centre Partnership which fully represents the views and concerns of all town centre stakeholders.
- Encourage investment into the town centre.
- Ensure that the town centre is welcoming and vibrant, with a strong and varied economy.

A 12-month Action Plan has been created, a summary of which can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/9BMvL4>

Highlights include:

- Developing an 'Investment Pack' for investors and

businesses interested in coming to the town – focusing on opportunities for investment and development.

- Investigating implementing the 'Purple Flag' Accreditation Scheme which would promote the evening economy in Leamington.
- Assisting with the delivery of BID Leamington Wayfinding Project.

The needs of Leamington businesses are top of the agenda for the Town Centre Partnership, and with the partnership renewing their pledge to actively engage with businesses in the town, we are pleased to welcome Warwickshire Police, Regent Court Shopping, the Warwickshire Investment Partnership and independent trader Feminique to the Steering Group.

Extending communication with businesses in the town, and in addition to these twice yearly newsletters, traders can receive regular E-bulletins by sending me their email address.

If you have any questions about the work of the partnership or wish to discuss any issues or concerns affecting your business, please contact me on **01926 456 017** or by email: Pamela.dunsdon@warwickdc.gov.uk

Welcome to new businesses

- | | |
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| Althorpe Enterprise Hub
ESH Works
Purple Monster
RDS Solutions
Sheridan Keyes
Chandos Street
Tobey Jacks
Clarendon Avenue
Rice 'N' Spice
Clarendon Street
Ella's & Jaycee Crafts
Clemens Street
The Grand Union
Bar & Restaurant
High Street
Babylon Barber
Shop | Park Street
JJG Autographs Limited
Park Street Lifestyle
Regent Street
Bread & Co
The Rustic Food Company
Victoria Terrace
Flavours Bar & Grill |
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Current Partners

We are fortunate to have a number of key sponsors and supporters:

- BID Leamington Ltd
- Mercia Radio
- Norman Stephens Unlimited
- Old Town Business Association
- Regent Court Shopping
- Royal Leamington Spa Chamber of Trade
- Royal Leamington Spa Town Council
- Royal Priors Shopping Centre
- Stagecoach in Warwickshire
- Tandy UK
- Warwick District Council
- Warwick District Pubwatch
- Warwickshire College
- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwickshire Investment Partnership
- Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative
- Wright Hassall Solicitors

TOWN CENTRE ECONOMY

Launch of Town Centre Business Surgeries

Renewed interest in the work of the Royal Leamington Spa Town Centre Partnership has prompted requests from businesses to expand ways in which they can get involved.

With this in mind, the partnership are launching business surgeries where business owners and managers can drop in and speak to the Town Centre Manager about any issues concerning their business. Pam Dunsdon, Town Centre Manager says "There are 1,000 businesses in Leamington and with around 65% of them independent traders, it's vital that the partnership

understands what's important for businesses. With recent changes in the economy, town centre businesses have become much more demanding, seeking ways in which they can influence change and be part of discussions and debates which affect their business and Leamington town centre as a whole. The surgeries are really informal, so please do come along for a chat."

The Surgeries will take place on the Upper Mall of the Royal Priors Shopping Centre on the 7th June, 5th July and 6th September, 12 – 2pm.

Linden Arches Restoration Project



The grandeur of the Pump Room Gardens is being restored. Four amenity societies – the Leamington Society, the Central Leamington Residents' Association, the Royal Leamington Buildings Conservation Trust

and the Warwickshire Gardens Trust – are working with the District and Town Councils on this important project.

The Pump Room Gardens are a very popular "Village Green" for the town, hosting the monthly Farmers' Market and annual events like the Peace Festival and Food & Drink Festival. These can each bring ten thousand visitors over a weekend.

The riverbanks in the gardens have been extensively cut back, and replanted in a way to maintain an important wildlife corridor. This has already improved their appearance.

The next important stage is to restore the cast-iron Victorian "Linden" arches, of which only two remain. The arches will be lit with globes (now in vandal proof polycarbonate, rather than glass) and energy efficient electric bulbs (in place of gas).

The total cost of replacing all the arches will be just over £100,000. Thanks to generous contributions by the District and Town Councils, numerous local organisations and contributions by the four amenity societies, over half of this amount has already been raised. While the cost is undoubtedly high, the work will bring local employment, so the cost will feed back into the local economy. And the arches will make the Pump Room Gardens look great again.

Warwickshire Justice Centre Opens



The Warwickshire Justice Centre in Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa will be a unique centre for the co-location of the Justice Agencies to improve access, service delivery, performance and confidence in the community. The centre will consist of the new building in Newbold Terrace, and is linked to the existing Police building in Hamilton Terrace, which will be the subject of further works.

The following services will be provided:

- 24/7 Policing
- Shared custody
- Judicial Services
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Her Majesties Courts Service
 - 4 Crown Courts
 - 3 Magistrates Courts
 - 2 County Courts
- Probation Service
- Youth Justice Service
- Victim and Witness Support Service
- Head Office functions
- Local Criminal Justice Board
- HM Coroner

The centre is expected to attract over 300 visitors daily and Agencies will be moving in gradually from August 2010.

Development Update

Bedford Street

The site now has planning permission for hotel use and discussions are ongoing to bring forward the development.

Ford's Foundry Masterplan

Consultations are underway by the new owners of the Old Ford Foundry Site to secure support for their Masterplan for the site. After a recent exhibition at the Town Hall in Leamington, Trilogy Developments are now working to address the points that were raised by residents, such as the need to focus on an effective highways & transport plan.

Over 400 local people attended over the two days of the exhibition and nearly 1 in 4 filled in a feedback form. From those forms, the headline numbers are that 66% either gave outright or qualified support, 6% were opposed and 28% were broadly neutral.

Trilogy are now planning a second exhibition at Leamington Town Hall on 18th September. For more information, visit: www.trilogyledevopments.com/leamingtonspa

Cultural Quarter Taking Shape

The next phase of the Spencer Yard project, integral to the creation of Leamington's Cultural Quarter is now underway. The Council owned former church in Spencer Street will be refurbished as a state of the art theatre which will become the new home of the Loft Theatre. Some pre-works are already underway in Spencer Yard itself and the main works contract is out to tender, with work due to start on the church in the autumn. The Loft Theatre's existing building and the old Dole office will then be demolished to allow construction of the Riverside Business Centre.

The Riverside Business Centre will offer high quality office/business accommodation for creative industries with restaurants on the ground floor and live/work units on the upper floors. This new phase of work will build on the successful completion of the North Hall and West Wing refurbishments which provide a home to nationally-recognised creative business such as Hybrid Arts, Motionhouse Dance Theatre and Heartbreak Productions.

The award-winning Leamington Assembly is located close to Spencer Yard and have expressed their support for the project. Vas Stylianos, Marketing Manager at the Assembly says, "The fact that the Loft Theatre is moving to Spencer Street is a very positive step towards the regeneration of South Town. The Assembly has already been of huge benefit to the economy of the area, and I believe The Loft will add to this too. The South has improved dramatically in the last couple of years and, despite being outside of the geographical area which the BID project supports, continues to bring people into Leamington from other areas."

Lowest Crime Figures in UK

Warwick District currently has the highest reduction in violent crime for the whole of England & Wales.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 Warwick District achieved a reduction of:

- 37.5% in Serious Violent Crime (crimes resulting in an injury) - 283 fewer victims
- 21.1% of aggravated burglary and robbery - 19 fewer victims
- 18.9% in theft from vehicles - 117 fewer victims when compared to the same period the previous year.

These figures have fallen consistently over the past six years, with the reduction achieved by closer partnership working in town centres and an increased police presence on busy nights.

Warwick District Commander, Chief Inspector Neil Harrison said: "Police and partners have a very good working relationship with licensees particularly within the town centre, in relation to promoting and enforcing responsible drinking on their premises. There is also good co-operation between experienced local door supervisors and all licensed

premises to ensure trouble stays out of every premises rather than just the one they work at.

He added, "Warwick District Pubwatch has in excess of 60 members all working towards one aim of reducing crime and disorder in the night time economy. Since the start of the scheme there have been a number of persons issued with Pubwatch bans or warnings, which has resulted in very few breaches. There are currently 20 individuals banned under Pubwatch from all members' premises. The co-operation and communication between members and the Police is key to this success."

Licensees, Police and CCTV help to prevent the escalation to violence by utilising Retail Radios to share information about developing problems and problematic individuals. CCTV operators also work closely with police to assist officers in getting to situations before violence starts and also offer valuable evidence to enable arrests and/or prosecutions."

For more information about Warwick District PubWatch contact Chris Donnachie on **07850 446 174** or email **christo.donnac@btconnect.com**

All inclusive Conference Room at Althorpe Enterprise Hub available for hire

The conference room is large, bright and contemporary and will provide the perfect backdrop for a successful conference. Fitted with large whiteboards, 2 flip charts and a fully functional projection system, the room has the capacity to seat up to 12 people in boardroom and 20 people theatre style.

Prices range from £100 per day hire charge, however, this can be reduced for shorter requirements. All hire charges are inclusive of the conference facilities including tea, coffee and biscuits. The team at Althorpe Enterprise Hub will make sure that you and your clients are looked after throughout the day.

For more details regarding the premises, or to arrange a viewing, please call the Althorpe Enterprise team on **01926 333 222** or e-mail enterprise@warwickdc.gov.uk <http://twitter.com/AlthorpeEH>



TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

Promote your business by getting involved in town centre events. For more details contact Pam Dunsdon on 01926 456 017. For a full list of events in Leamington, visit: www.royal-leamington-spa.co.uk

19th & 20th June Leamington Peace Festival
Pump Room Gardens

24th July Zoe's Garden Party
Pump Room Gardens

22nd August Leamington & Warwick Mela Cultural Festival
Pump Room Gardens
(12 – 6pm)

Warwickshire Farmers Markets
Pump Room Gardens
4th Saturday of every month
(9 am – 2pm)
26th June, 24th July & 28th August

17th & 18th July Leamington Latin Festival
Victoria Park

31st - 15th August Bowls England Nationals
Victoria Park

Celebrating Success

Carrick Travel Consultant Crowned UK Travel Queen!



Carrick Travel's travel consultant, Stephanie Russell, has won the prestigious Young Professional Travel Agent of the Year award. 21 year old Stephanie, who saw off several hundred competitors to reach the final five, scooped the trophy at a glitzy award ceremony at London's Lancaster Hotel.

The award, part of the travel industry's "Oscars" evening, is traditionally dominated by the industry's big national firms, and with the other four finalists coming from Thomas Cook, Co Op Travel and Thomson, this trend was expected to continue.

But underdog Stephanie, impressed the judges with her professionalism, drive and energy, to bring the award to the Warwickshire firm, for the first time. Stephanie, who joined Carrick two years ago, after completing a travel and tourism course at City College Coventry, was delighted to become the 15th winner of the award.

She said: "When I heard my directors had nominated me, I felt overwhelmed and honoured. Going on to win it is incredible; it is something I would never have dreamt of. I can only thank my manager and colleagues for the excellent training and support they have offered." Commenting on the award, Carrick Travel MD Tina Nason said: "We are all really proud of Stephanie, she does a fantastic job, and we are always getting letters and emails from clients thanking us for her efforts. Considering her age, she has plenty of confidence, and the judges said that it was her personality and enthusiasm that really marked her out from the competition."

Picture above: Stephanie Russell after winning the award with the Carrick Travel team. From left to right, MD Tina Nason, Cheylesmore Branch manager Helen Sanders, Stephanie Russell, Senior Travel Consultant Donna Hill.

Business Events

Leamington Business Network

Relaxed, enjoyable business networking
Venue: Seasons Restaurant, 115 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 4QZ

Time: 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, 7 - 9am

Cost: £10 per session – includes breakfast.
Contact: Rebecca Fahy (Jigsaw Complete Communications Services **01926 477 570**), Tony Probert (LightMedia Communications 01926 313 233) or Martin Sparrow (SureTax Accounting 024 7669 7300)
www.leamingtonbusinessnetwork.co.uk

Chamber's 9th Annual Economic & Business Conference – Rebuilding our Economy

Friday 18th June

Venue: Peugeot Motor Company Plc, Pinley House, Coventry, CV3 1ND

Time: 9am – 1pm, followed by buffet lunch

Cost: Members £25 + VAT
Non-members £50 + VAT

The Chamber's 9th Annual Conference takes place as the economy crawls out of a severe and damaging recession, and follows the general election. As usual, we have a line-up of top class expert speakers who will give their views on how we can rebuild our economy. In particular, we will hear from successful local companies who are building for the future through new ideas and technology. As always, the event will give ample opportunity for debate, and networking, in Peugeot's impressive Coventry Headquarters. Contact: Graham Aylott - **024 7665 4116** / grahama@cw-chamber.co.uk