

Advice on way to win business

Organisations and residents delivering social care and health services can discover ways to win business in Wolverhampton as part of the city's upcoming Residents' Week. A networking event will be held at the Molineux Stadium on March 14.



John Reynolds

It will provide the opportunity to meet the people who commission and procure these services – the Public Health Commissioner, Older People's Commissioner, Children's Commissioner and All Age Disabilities Commissioner.

Registration is at 1.30pm for a 2pm start.

Wolverhampton's city economy boss, Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This is a great networking event for local businesses and residents to get involved in. They could discover a host of opportunities they were unaware of such as day opportunities for older people, carer support, mental health floating support, mental health accommodation-based support, supported living services, the healthy child programme and services for victims of violence."

Governors win national award

A special school in the Black Country has been awarded a national award for excellence.

The board of governors at The Westminster School in Rowley Regis has been awarded the Governor Mark, which is a National Governors Association approved quality standard. The award recognises the board's high quality of governance and highlighted a number of areas assessors were especially impressed with.

Fewer than 50 secondary schools in the country have achieved the accolade.

Headteacher Christine Hill said: "We have an extremely supportive governing board which works exceptionally hard for all of our pupils. We are delighted that they have received this award."

Countdown under way for Ironman challenge

The countdown has begun for the start of the next Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire taking place this summer.

Places for the individual event sold out in days and competitors from around the globe will now be heading to the county once again on Sunday, June 12.

Leading the charity charge will be celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay and wife Tana and their GTR 100 team, which is raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The event which takes places through Cannock Chase, Lichfield, East Staffordshire and Stafford consists of a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile cycle and a 13.1-mile run.



Mr Winnington

Councillor Mark Winnington said: "The event is a huge opportunity to showcase our wonderful county and we are looking forward to welcoming the event."

Ballard to play Robin 2

Musician, songwriter and vocalist Russ Ballard will be appearing at Bilston's Robin 2 this month. The gig will be taking place on Sunday. Russ Ballard is the former lead vocalist and guitarist of rock band Argent. Tickets are priced at £17.50 in advance and £18.50 on the door. For further details or to book tickets, contact the box office on 01902 401211 or visit the website at www.therobin.co.uk

World Book Day brought to life as pupils hear Superworm favourite



Simon Hackett with pupils at St Paul's

World Book Day was brought to life for children in Tipton as one of their favourite books was read to them by a local councillor.

Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, visited St Paul's CE Academy in Tipton to treat them to Superworm by Julia Donaldson.

The children also marked the occasion by dressing up as their favourite fictional character.

Principal at St Paul's CE Academy, Anna McGuire said: "Our children have really enjoyed World Book Day and we feel it's important to show children how much fun reading can be."

"It was wonderful to see books coming alive today as we saw plenty of Harry Potters, Goldilocks and a few Cat in Hats in our

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classrooms. The staff joined in, too, with a Where's Wally? theme.

"They all enjoyed Simon reading Superworm, it's one of their favourite books."

"A special thanks should go to all the staff, parents and carers for all the effort they put into the costumes and helping toward this year's World Book Day."

Councillor Hackett added: "It was a pleasure to visit St Paul's and read to the children who all looked amazing in their costumes."

"It was great to hear from the children about reading books. They told me them-

selves that they know how important reading is as it helps them to learn more, spell better, go on to read bigger books and do better at school."

It's not just schools who have been celebrating World Book Day, libraries across Sandwell held events to mark the day and encourage more people to read books.

Discover

Anyone can join the library for free and discover a love for reading just go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

E-books, e-magazines, audiobooks, music and more is available by calling in at local libraries.

World Book Day, which is aimed specifically at youngsters, took place on Thursday.

High-quality apartments at Sunbeam have the 'wow factor'

Work on factory flats is really motoring

Report by Joe Edwards
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THESE are the latest images of Wolverhampton's former Sunbeam factory, which is being turned into 116 homes in an £11.5 million project.

The landmark building, where the famous motorcycles were built, sits just off the Penn Road island and had become somewhat of an eyesore having lain empty since 1997.

However, property developer Liam Wordley purchased the building from regeneration company Urban Splash in 2013 with the intention to redevelop the whole site.

Work is well under way, and some tenants have now even moved in, with the project set to be completed in 14 months. Mr Wordley insists the demand for apartments has been 'strong' so far.

"It's just a great quality space to live in I think, and my thoughts are being backed up by people voting with their feet if you like," he said. "There's no point in having a big building like this that was empty, spending a lot of money to convert it into another building that remains empty."

Quality

Mr Wordley pointed out in one of the rooms that although the Penn Road island was busy, no traffic noise could be heard inside due to the glazing used for the windows.

He said he has spent a lot of time with Wolverhampton council going through exact specifications to ensure properties are of the highest quality.

"We spend a lot of time with the local authority – designing, confirming, glazing specifications, trialling it, sound testing," said Mr Wordley.

"The list goes on, and that's just one aspect – that's just the windows."

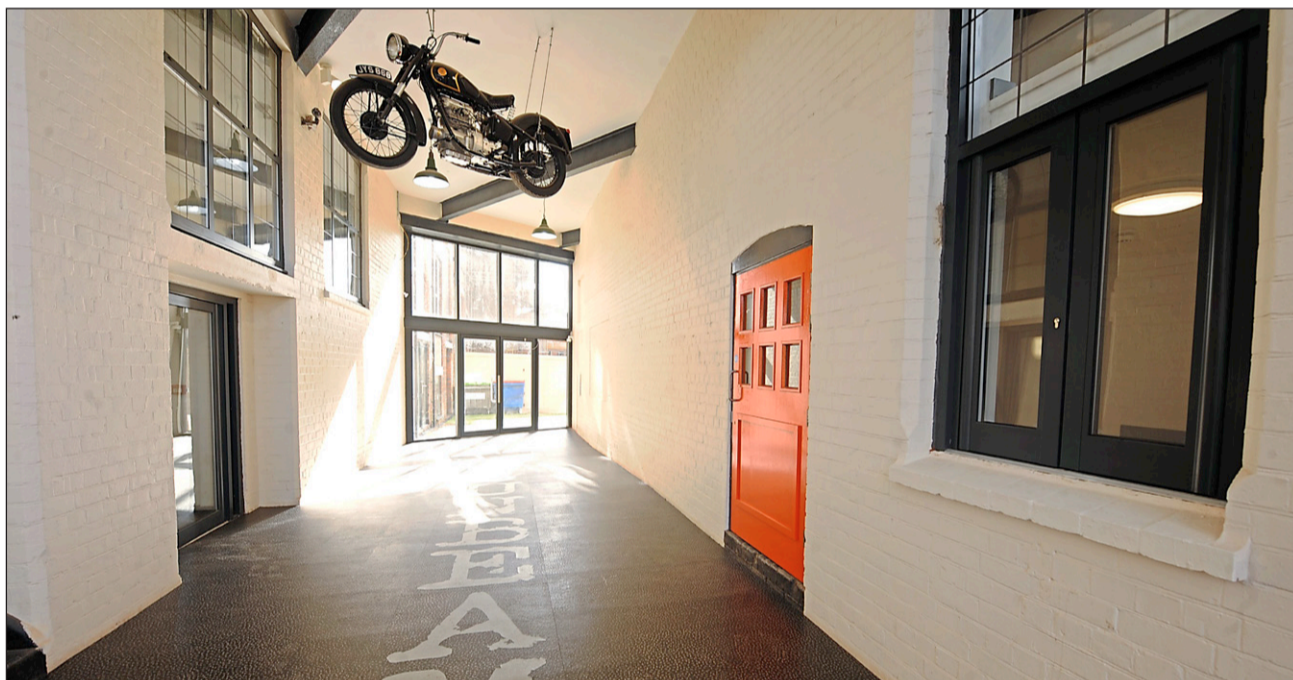
"And then you've got to do all of the same for every other aspect of the property, and then all of a sudden you realise you are just scratching the surface."

From the late 1800s, most of Sunbeam's bicycle, motorcycle, and some motor car production was carried out at the site.

Perhaps most notably, Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird Sunbeam car, which set a world speed record in 1924, was produced at the site.

When production was switched to a factory in Fallings Park in the 1950s, the lock-makers C E Marshall occupied the site.

In acknowledgement of the history of the building, a Sunbeam S8 motorcycle from 1952 hangs from the ceiling as you go through the main entrance.



The bright corridors at the landmark building contain affectionate tributes to the Sunbeam factory history



Work on the high-quality apartments is progressing well



The exterior has been spruced up while retaining original features

When asked if retaining the building's heritage is important to him, Mr Wordley revealed that the Sunbeam sign will be put back on the apex of the building and added: "Of course, otherwise it's just not going to look right. It was a huge part of what we were doing, and the Sunbeam sign is going back on the apex. That will really make a big difference as well, that's the iconic shot everyone remembers. It's definitely unique

to the city, in terms of being proud – I have said this before – I just don't have time to be proud yet. That day will come."

Peter Bilson, deputy leader and cabinet member for City Assets at Wolverhampton City Council, has backed the 'wonderful' development, which will bring a 'wow factor' to the city.

He said: "There's a definite wow factor about it, it's a landmark building for us in

Wolverhampton. We need to have a balance between creating the new, that we have done at the i10, a commercial building that we've just completed and are in the process of letting and fitting out.

"Compared to then investing in some of our older buildings, restoring them, regenerating them in the way that has happened here at Sunbeam, and Sunbeamland as it is affectionately sometimes referred to."

Man sentenced for immigration advice con

A man who offered immigration advice when he was not qualified to do so has been given a suspended jail sentence.

Gurjit James-Moore, who ran James Moore Immigration Consulting, based in Lynton Avenue, Smethwick, pleaded guilty to 10 charges of providing unregulated immigration advice or services.

He was given a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for

two years, at Southwark Crown Court in London on Thursday. He was also ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid community work within the next 12 months.

The offences had been committed since September 2013. James-Moore, aged 48, asked for one further offence to be taken into consideration.

He was also ordered to pay costs of £1,881 and to repay all

his victims the money he had charged them.

He was told by Judge Anthony Pitts that his actions amounted to the 'deliberate and dishonest targeting of vulnerable victims'.

Message

Following the hearing, Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner, Dr Ian Leigh, said: "The Office of the Immigration

Services Commissioner is here to ensure that people seeking immigration advice are treated fairly by people they can trust to be fit and competent. James-Moore chose to operate outside the law.

"I hope this sends a clear message to other people considering providing immigration advice – act within the law or you will find yourself in court."

Top pianist to play at school

An award-winning pianist will be performing at Old Swinford Hospital.

Margaret Fingerhut will be returning to perform at the school on March 22 at 7.30pm with singer Anthony Flaum.

Both will be exploring the world of opera and musicals. Tickets cost £8 concessions, and a suggested donation is £10. Call 01384 817316, or email ljoyce@oshsch.com.