

## Beamont students wow judges with food business pitch in 'Dragons' Den'



The all-female team from Beamont Collegiate Academy clinched first prize in the Manufacturing Institute's Dragons' Den-style Make It Challenge

A TEAM of entrepreneurs from Beamont Collegiate Academy have wowed judges in a Dragons' Den-style challenge.

Fifteen pupils from the Long Lane academy travelled to the Cottons Hotel and Spa

in Knutsford alongside students from 10 other schools across Cheshire as part of the Manufacturing Institute's Make It Challenge.

The two teams from Beamont were tasked with building a food business from scratch and then

pitching their idea to a panel of experts in the style of the BBC show.

The all-female team from the school was awarded first place and is now preparing for the grand final of the competition in March.

## Slimming starts

A NEW Slimming World group will meet for the first time this weekend.

Woolston mum-of-two Philippa Givvons has set the group up after she lost three stone using the programme.

The group will hold its first meeting at Ryfields Retirement Village in Orford on Saturday at 9.30am.

Philippa said: "I didn't want to leave the house and when I did I was wearing the baggiest clothes I could find.

"I felt embarrassed and ashamed and that's when I decided something had to change.

"When I nervously arrived at my first group I was dreading those scales – as it turned out it was the best decision I could have made because in 23 weeks I lost three stone and three pounds and none of it would have been possible without all the support that goes on in a Slimming World group."

For more information call 07554 422451.

## Singing stars

AN a cappella choir will play Padgate Youth and Community Centre later this month.

Vocal Infinity will perform a wide range of hits including the Beatles' *All You Need is Love*, Rhianna's *Umbrella* and the Scissors Sisters' *I Don't Feel Like Dancing* during their performance on Sunday, January 29 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 each with proceeds going to charity – for more information call [pyccentre@gmail.com](mailto:pyccentre@gmail.com) or call 812368.

## WEEKEND >

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# M&S depot in line for major refurb plans

Permission for development granted despite highways concerns over traffic impact

A MAJOR refurbishment scheme for Marks and Spencer's Woolston distribution depot has been approved by planning chiefs.

The Kingsland Grange building is set to undergo a transformation that will see it partially demolished and renovated inside after approval for the scheme was passed by Warrington Borough Council's planning department.

Offices at the storage and distribution centre will be bulldozed, resulting in the gross floor area of the depot being reduced to 9,960sq m from 10,495sq m, while the interior will be altered and modified.

Car parking spaces at the site will be reduced to 82 from 135 while associated external works to fences and gates will also be carried out.

Applicant JCAM Commercial Real Estate Property's design and access statement says the development will 'optimise the site's potential'.

The statement added: "The proposed

application makes good use of the existing infrastructure by developing an in-fill site in an existing community which has good public transport links.

"The proposals will enhance the local area aesthetically also improving efficiency and convenience for the operations on the site."

Warrington Borough Council's highways department had raised some concerns over lorries being in close proximity to parked cars and the impact of the traffic flow from Hardwick Grange but did not object to the scheme.

A statement from the highways department added: "Highways acknowledge that the presence of HGVs and car parking in a constrained area is not ideal.

"However the revised site layout is considered to be acceptable as the development has provided an increased area for HGVs to manoeuvre and satisfactory parking provision.

"Highways are concerned that the access to the south east of the site is narrow and does not accommodate two-way flow of HGVs and standard cars.

"Priority should be given to vehicles entering this area of the site to avoid congestion spilling on the adopted highway."

## Sensory donation



Cllr Poul Gosney, chair of Poulton with

NEW Horizons Alternative Provision School is developing a sensory garden thanks to a generous donation from Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council.

The donation will support the Longbarn school's Duke of Edinburgh bronze award programme, which will use volunteers to develop the garden area.

Funds from the council will go towards tools to develop the new garden at the Fallowfield Grove school.

## A night of dance

CINNAMON Brow Farm Club will play host to a charity dance night later this month.

The Montrose Close club will host a 1950s and 60s evening at 7.30pm on Saturday, January 28, in aid of Scotty's Little Soldiers, which helps the families of soldiers who are killed in action.

Tickets are priced £12.50 including a hot pot support, DJ and rock and roll bingo.

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