

NEWSFile

Redundancies revealed

JOBS are to go at a Crewe mobile phone distribution company as part of a major re-structuring exercise.

Dextra has said it is not known how many posts will be shed at its Weston Road site. But a company spokesman said it was hoped the jobs would go through voluntary rather than compulsory redundancy.

Kevin Meagher, head of communications at Dextra, said: "We've got three distinct businesses, 20:20 Logistics, Caudwell Logistics and Dextra Solutions. We're trying to move towards creating a single integrated UK business."

20:20 Logistics is a distributor of mobile phone handsets, Dextra Solutions distributes phone accessories while Caudwell Logistics deals mainly with warehousing.

At present 850 people are employed by the three parts of the business at Crewe.

Extra jobs announced

CREWE-based telemarketing and data cleansing company SMART is expanding its workforce to cope with extra demand.

The company has recently secured additional contracts in both the private and public sectors. It has a number of vacancies for marketing executives to work on various campaigns, and is looking for enthusiastic people with bright personalities to fill a variety of business development roles.

For details about the opportunities available call 01270 503000 or visit website at www.smart-contact.co.uk

CREWE Hall Hotel is celebrating after its parent group QHotels was named AA Hotel Group of the Year.

The award is presented to the hotel group that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving and developing its individual hotels, while maintaining brand consistency across the group.

Managing director of QHotels, Michael Purfill, said: "We are absolutely delighted with this recognition. As a group we have made a massive commitment to

improving and developing our properties, investing just under £60 million in the past year and almost £150 million across the whole portfolio.

"Every one of our hotels is individual, with its own idiosyncrasies, yet people know what to expect when they stay in one of our properties," QHotels has 21 properties across the UK.

The company spread the news of the award and thanked staff using a bus in its corporate purple colour which visited Crewe Hall on Thursday.

Hotel group on Q for national annual award



JUST THE TICKET: QHotels director of operations Vivien Sirotkin, managing director Michael Purfill and general manager of Crewe Hall Hotel Peter Manby, right, with the purple bus.

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Make your choice in top visitor destination poll

CHRONICLE readers are being asked to vote in one of the categories in the showpiece South Cheshire Chamber Business Awards 2008.

Visit Chester & Cheshire, the area's destination management organisation, is sponsoring the Visitors' Choice Award for the second year.

"We are delighted to be involved again this year with the South Cheshire Chamber Business Awards," said Visit Chester & Cheshire chief executive Chris Brown.

"And we are particularly pleased to be supporting the Visitors' Choice Award, which celebrate the success of the diverse range of visitor experiences in South Cheshire."

Lucy Johnson, visitor economy development manager for Crewe and Nantwich, added: "The visitor economy is of vital importance to the economy of Crewe and Nantwich. Visitors spend in excess of £140 million in the area.

"Delivering quality and delighting customers is at the core of every successful tourism business. Quality in choice, service and visitor experience is the key to success. South Cheshire businesses are judged by the standards delivered to our visitors and these awards provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to

visit
Chester & Cheshire
A Destination Management Organisation

By Dave Fox

have their say and vote for their favourite place or attraction."

To vote for your Visitors Choice Attraction look at the following list and go to www.southcheshirechamber.co.uk

Choice of visitor attractions:
Bridgemere Garden World, Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Dagfields Crafts and Antiques, Dorfold Hall Gardens, Englesea Brook Museum, Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Lakemore Country Park, Lyceum Theatre, Nantwich Civic Hall, Nantwich Museum, Nantwich Players Theatre, Parish Church of St Mary, Queens Park Crewe, Fun on the Farm Maize Maze - Reaseheath, Smugburys Jersey Ice Cream Farm, Stapeley Water Gardens & Palms Tropical Oasis, The Chase, The Firs Pottery, Crewe Heritage Centre, Cholmondeley Castle.

To discover Cheshire simply visit www.visitcheshire.com.

Enter now

The South Cheshire Chamber Business Awards 2008 are being held in association with the *Chronicle*, culminating in an awards evening at Crewe Hall on November 28.

We are inviting businesses and business people to enter or register an interest. There are a total of nine awards and, in all but one of them, entries are invited.

Each business or business person entering will be judged on simple criteria by a panel of experts from the chamber and the various award sponsors.

Award categories are:
■ Start-up Business of the Year sponsored by Cheshire County Council.

■ Young Business Person of the Year, sponsored by Crewe Development Agency
■ Small Business of the Year, sponsored by Return on Investment, Nantwich.
■ Medium Business of the Year.

sponsored by Hammond McNulty, Crewe.

■ Large Business of the Year, sponsored by NatWest Bank.

■ Business Person of the Year, sponsored by MIMU Cheshire.

■ Innovation of the Year, sponsored by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

■ Visitors Choice Award, sponsored by Visit Chester & Cheshire.

■ International Trade Award (South Cheshire exporter of product or service), sponsor awaited.

■ South Cheshire Chamber is now accepting entries for this year's awards. To find out more call the chamber on 01270 504700 and you can register your interest, or visit the www.southcheshirechamber.co.uk website.

■ For further information about the sponsorship opportunities, please contact Madeleine Abbey on 01270 504700 or e-mail her at madeleine.abbey@sccc.co.uk.

URGENT do you comply?

February 2008 has seen the introduction of far reaching legislation attempting to tackle the perceived problem of illegal workers in the UK. The legislation applies to all employers, including those who believe they do not employ any migrant workers.

Knights' business immigration team can take the headache out of compliance with immigration legislation. We offer:

- An audit of HR practices to ensure compliance with legislation
- Compliance advice, and representation if inspected by the Home Office
- Training for managers and HR staff in their obligation under the new rules
- Document appraisal
- Management and assistance with the application for a

licence to join the register of sponsors under the Points Based System

- Advice on transitional provisions for existing work permit holder

get in touch

To find out more about what we can do for you please contact
Lynne Ingram
t 01782 349594
e lynnie.ingram@knightsllp.co.uk

visit our new website at www.knightsllp.co.uk

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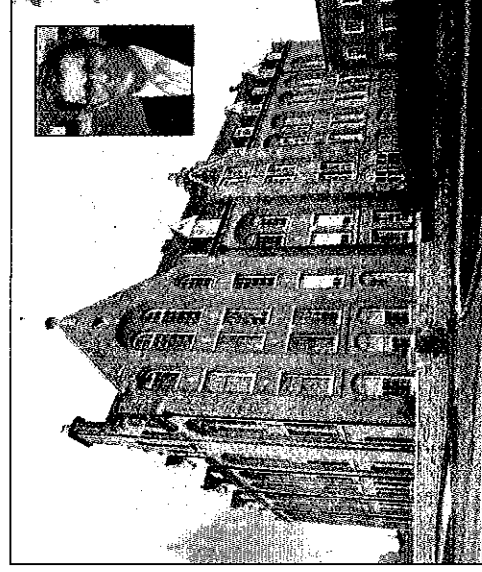
Police building conversion singled out for award

HOUSEBUILDER Morris has scooped a national award for breathing new life into the former Cheshire Police Training College in Crewe.

The company has won a UK Property Award for its collection of high quality apartments at The Academy on Nantwich Road and is reporting strong demand from buyers having already sold more than 80% of the scheme.

The Grade Two-listed building, which started life as an Ursuline convent, has been carefully preserved and converted into 33 luxury apartments as part of a wider development of new homes called College Gate.

Dave Heeson, regional managing director of Mor-



ARRESTING: The conversion of the Cheshire Police Training College to apartments in Crewe has won a national award and (inset) Dave Heeson.

ris, said: "We have transformed the site on Nantwich Road through significant remediation work and careful planning. By combining a wide mix of bespoke house designs with the spectacular conversion project we have designed a unique new development. "Residents have been impressed by our efforts to preserve and reflect the heritage of the site as well as providing a high standard of homes that make the most of the surroundings." Judges praised the location, high quality appearance and finish of the property, and the use of energy efficiency measures. The award for Best Development will be presented at the *Daily Mail* UK Property Awards 2008 on October 31.

business opportunities

 Louis Taylor

CREWE
Residential Development Site
0.96 acre level site
Planning consent for 14 dwellings
£550,000

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