

## Lovell is given Walsall Works partner award for a third year

Lovell Partnerships has been awarded gold partner status from Walsall Works for 2020, after also receiving gold in 2019 and bronze in 2018.

First presented in 2017, the Walsall Works Partner Awards celebrate its partners who have met a quality standard, and this time there is special recognition for additional activities carried out during the coronavirus pandemic.

The gold status comes in recognition of Lovell's policy to leave a 'Lovell Legacy' during all regeneration projects.

Lovell also works to help staff to increase their skills, raise aspirations in schools and support the local community.

Stuart Penn, regional managing director for Lovell, said: "We're delighted to be awarded our second consecutive Gold Partner status. I'm very proud to see that our dedication to delivering social value and implementing our 'Lovell Legacy' has been recognised."

Lovell is currently working on the transformation of the former Caparo Engineering works on Green Lane, which will bring 252 homes to Walsall, whilst also working in partnership with whg, refurbishing homes in the town through whg's roofing programme.

## Launch for new Dudley website

A Black Country building society has launched a brand new website for its customers.

The 163-year-old Dudley Building Society site is at <https://www.dudleybuilding-society.co.uk/>

The aim is to enhance user experience and it incorporates the look and feel of the Brierley Hill-based society's new brand.

It will also help The Dudley to improve the service it offers to both customers and intermediaries.

The society has five branches in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Gornal Wood, Kingswinford and Perton.



Barberry hands over the newly-completed headquarters building at Kingswood Lakeside Business Park in Cannock to Allpack

## Barberry delivers Allpack's HQ

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A new national headquarters for a leading packaging group has been delivered in Cannock by property developer and investor Barberry Group.

Construction of the 60,000 sq ft multi-million pound warehouse at Kingswood Lakeside Business Park has reached practical completion.

Allgroup, trading as Allpack, has acquired the freehold of the unit at one of the region's key logistics hubs. The company is relocating its regional operations to the new HQ, bringing much-needed investment and dozens of new jobs to the area.

Barberry development director Jon Robinson said: "We purchased this site to deliver a headquarters building on Kingswood Lakeside Business Park. We

are proud to confirm we have completed construction of the Allpack HQ on schedule and budget and are delighted to hand the keys to our customer. It offers Allpack a fantastic new headquarters for its national operations as the company expands and relocates from its current base in Aldridge.

"The successful conclusion of this project clearly demonstrates the quality of our mid-box industrial/logistics buildings, the high specification we deliver, our experience and our flexible approach to catering for occupier requirements."

Bob Clarke, operations director at All-

pack, said: "We are delighted to get the keys to our new headquarters, allowing us to continue supporting our clients nationally with the exceptional service levels that have become synonymous with the Allpack brand. The past 12 months has seen the ecommerce sector grow to new records and this facility will further enable us to develop and grow our business."

The 3.5-acre site was acquired by Barberry from Staffordshire County Council. Barberry secured detailed planning permission and appointed construction contractor Benniman. The ground treatment works were part-funded by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) via its Local Growth Fund.

## National award for apprentice

A Staffordshire University degree apprentice has been recognised with a national award.

Sally Parker had cause for a double celebration after being named higher and degree apprentice of the year at the Nuclear Skills Awards 2021 and completing her Tech Industry gold digital degree apprenticeship with first class honours in the same week.

The 21-year-old from Uttoxeter joined Stone-based firm Capula in 2017 and has been completing a degree in digital and technology solutions alongside her role as a junior IT engineer.

The UK Nuclear Skills Awards, organised by NSAN and Cogent Skills, celebrates exceptional individuals and companies in the nuclear sector from across the country and winners announced in virtual ceremony last month.

Sally said: "Four years of hard work have now paid off and I'm really proud to be recognised with this award. It is a bit overwhelming because I wasn't expecting to win.

"After I finished my A-Levels I wanted to get a job instead of going back into full time education and so doing an apprenticeship was ideal for me. It has sometimes been a challenge to work and study at the same time but both Capula and the university have been really supportive and have helped to keep track of my progress."

Fellow Capula employee Jack Senior who undertook an engineering apprenticeship with Staffordshire University was also a finalist in the nuclear graduate of the year category at the awards.

Steve Tollwright, HR director at Capula, said: "I'm extremely proud of Sally and Jack as they have both worked exceptionally hard and deserve every bit of recognition."

## Emma creates Events in a Box

The founder of Staffordshire-based event management company All-in-All Events has launched a new business called Events in a Box.

It is a response to the Covid-crisis, which has seen the corporate events sector come to a stand still.

Events in A Box provides companies with virtual solutions including live interactive events and a bespoke box containing luxury drinks and snacks is delivered to every attendee's home, worldwide.

Emma Jones, who is originally from Cheslyn Hay and now lives in Hednesford, said the Events in a Box concept was piloted over the festive period with companies, and individuals, ordering virtual experiences as an alternative to Christmas parties.

She explained: "Within 48-hours the corporate events sector came to an almighty stand still. Initially I enjoyed some time off with my new-born baby but after six months I put pen to paper to design this new Events in a Box concept."

"Initially working with brands and businesses in the run up to Christmas, we provided hundreds of corporates across the UK and globally with engaging virtual events, accompanied with a personalised box delivered to people's homes.

"Post-Christmas, the momentum and interest online has significantly grown, so I quickly made the decision to set-up Events in a Box to support more corporates and consumers, and of course to deliver a new revenue stream for my business."

Events in a Box virtual experiences all have a live element.

# Sandwell firms urged to follow example of KMB

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise will soon open for 2022 entries and the Sandwell Business Ambassadors are urging West Midlands businesses to get themselves in the running, pointing out that even very small businesses are eligible to apply.

The awards are given for outstanding achievement by UK businesses in the categories of innovation, international trade, sustainable development and promoting opportunity through social mobility.

The awards, which are presented annually, are free to enter.

International freight forwarder KMB

**JOHN CORSER**  
BUSINESS EDITOR



Shipping Group, based at Burnt Tree, Tipton, has just been announced as a winner in the 2021 awards.

The Sandwell business achieved excellence in the international trade category, having shown a 708 per cent increase in international sales over the six-year qualifying period.

KMB director Paul Hull – who is a Sandwell Business Ambassador himself – is urging other local businesses to put themselves forward for this prestigious prize.

"We are absolutely delighted to be recognised with such a prestigious award.

"It's a huge honour, and testament to all the hard work our team puts in on a daily basis.

"It's been an exceptionally tough year for us all, but this achievement makes it all the more rewarding.

"It is just the motivation we need to go even further to help our customers trade internationally.

"We encourage other West Midlands businesses to put themselves in the running for the 2022 awards. Sometimes we don't shout loud enough about the talent and innovation present in our region – it's time to put modesty aside and go for it," he said.

Sandwell Business Ambassador John Wood is group director for Liberty Engineering and Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands.

This means he has been appointed as a

deputy by the Lord Lieutenant who is the Queen's personal representative in the West Midlands.

He urged smaller businesses not to overlook the benefits of submitting an entry for the Queen's Awards.

"The eligibility criteria says you need only two full-time members of staff, or the part-time equivalent, so you don't need to run a big company to achieve success.

"If you win an award of this calibre, the benefits could be limitless – garnering excellent publicity and showing recognition of the talent, dedication and innovation of your work," he explained.

Sandwell Business Ambassadors have compiled a page of resources for businesses interested in applying for a Queen's Award in 2022.

It can be found at [www.sandwellbusinessambassadors.co.uk/our\\_work/qa/](http://www.sandwellbusinessambassadors.co.uk/our_work/qa/)