



Business in the Arts: North West

WELCOME TO NICHOLS

To many, the name Nichols plc might not be that well know, but mention Vimto and instant recognition will follow. Business in the Arts:North West is delighted to welcome Nichols as its newest Corporate Member.

Vimto was created in 1908 under the name Vimtonic and the recipe remains a closely guarded secret. Impressively, Vimto has been exported since 1919 and now sells to 65 countries around the world, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Exports continue to be a significant and growing part of the company's business and they won the Queens award for international trade in 2012.

Nichols plc's stable of brands also include, amongst others, Levi Roots, Weight Watchers, Panda and Sunkist. The company's revenues have grown year on year throughout the recession and in both 2011 and 2012 Nichols plc was shortlisted for the AIM Company of the Year award. An enviable record in tough times.

Looking closer to its Newton le Willows home, Nichols plc is serious about its corporate social responsibility in terms of sustainability, health and safety and community involvement and staff enthusiastically raise funds for local charities. BIA:NW is delighted to be just part of that CSR menu.

Vivienne Tyler, Manager of BIA:NW, said, "From talking to staff it is clear that Nichols is a great place to work. I am happy that we will be able not only to give managers some stimulating external development opportunities, but also enable the company to put even more back into the community."

The first four executives have already come forward: Allan Doyle, Emma Hunt, Andy Johnson and David Perkins bring with them an array of skills ranging from Finance and IT to Marketing and Quality and more will doubtless follow.

Indeed the very first Nichols volunteer (though in a previous incarnation) was Group Chief Executive, Brendan Hynes, who spent several years on the board of Cornerhouse in Manchester and so knows at first hand that joining a board in the arts is a rewarding experience, both for the arts organisation and for the candidate. As he says:

"BIA plays a valuable part in matching businesses skills with Arts organisations in a mutually beneficial partnership that helps to develop both the arts organisation and the individuals involved. I very much enjoyed the experience and learned a lot along the way."

JUST HOW DIVERSE ARE OUR BOARDS?

Recent research by the Charity Commission shows that the average trustee is a white, 57 year old man. Fortunately the cultural sector tends to be ahead of the game in terms of diversity, but some of the research findings provide food for thought: only 2% of charity trustees are under 30 and just 0.5% are between 18 and 24.

Though no specific figures are available for the cultural sector, experience suggests that the age profile of boards isn't that much better, despite the focus on getting young people involved in the arts. Certainly that's what Steve Ball at Birmingham City Council thought ten years ago when their Young People on Arts Boards initiative was introduced. Since then around 100 18-25 year olds have been trained, matched and supported to join arts boards in the city. BIA:NW's Manager has been the programme's trainer since 2002.



Brendan Hynes, Group Chief Executive, Nichols plc

The Programmes - Here are the latest matches:

BETTER BOARD BANK - New matches bring the total to 446.

Lancashire Sinfonietta - Malcolm Brown, Osiris Training
M6 Theatre Company - Richard Ellis, consultant
Hope Street Limited - Andrew Taylor, The TPS Group
Hope Street Limited - Martin Bocking, Lovelock Mitchell Architects
Clapperboard UK - Carole McMahon, consultant
Tmesis Theatre - Peter Flaherty, DWF LLP
Activate Arts - Peter Stevens, Netherton Consultancy Services Ltd
Ludus Dance - Sam Grogan, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
Manchester Literature Festival - Dawn Devonald, TalkTalk Group
Open Eye Gallery - Jon Keeble, DWF LLP
Tandem Theatre - Nancy Jaeger, The Introduction Agency
Lancashire Sinfonietta - Kate Stross, consultant

MENTORING - New matches bring the total to 152.

Sue Jones, Contact - Paul Clay, Feat of Clay

SKILLS BANK - The number of projects confirmed to date is 553.

Creative Curve/Seth Vaughan, Yorkshire Bank - business and financial planning
Southport Flower Show/George Perrin, Stockport Borough Council - business and financial planning
Ludus Dance/Simon Whitehead, EOS Law LLP – HR and legal

QUICK FIXES – 128 completed to date

Silk Heritage Trust - Gary Jones, Weightmans LLP - organisational structures
Silk Heritage Trust - Ed Farrelly, DWF LLP - employment
Blank Media Collective - Vivienne Tyler, BIA:NW - organisational structures
The Bluecoat - Jim Davies, DWF LLP - marketing, press & PR
InSITU - Sarah Williams, Dootsons Solicitors LLP - organisational structures
Ludus Dance - Simon Whitehead, EOS Law LLP - employment law
The Liantamers Theatre Company - Jonathan Gillow, Hill Dickinson - organisational structures
Ludus Dance - Alan Reed, Alan Reed (ACT) Ltd - financial
Quarantine - Catherine Harrison, DWF LLP - legal
London Road Collective - Janet McBurney, Weightmans LLP - contracts/landlord & tenants
London Road Collective – Jonathan Gillow, Hill Dickinson - organisational structures

**The monetary value of support provided through BIA:NW's
volunteering programmes now amounts to over £15.5 million.**

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