

MAJOR INDICES

Index	Price	+/-	+/-%
FTSE 100	6791.55	-29.91	-0.44
FTSE 250	15691.81	-56.88	-0.36
CAC 40	4330.55	-80.10	-1.82
Dax Xetra	9644.01	-150.05	-1.53
Dow Jones (at 6pm)	16946.43	-137.37	-0.80
Nikkei 225	15457.87	+173.45	+1.13

WINNERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	+/-%	Company	Price	+/-%
Royal Bank of Scot	364½	+10.77	Spectris	1934	-7.68
Balfour Beatty	253½	+9.05	BSkyB	874½	-5.46
Carillion	362¾	+7.18	HowdenJoineryGp	347½	-4.77
Countrywide	489½	+5.18	Cairn Energy	177½	-3.69
Lonmin	241	+4.92	AO World	212½	-3.24
Anglo American	1639½	+3.44	GlaxoSmithKline	1423	-3.16
Interserve	648	+2.86	Kazakhmys	343	-3.11
Pearson	1132	+2.82	Electrocomp	234¾	-2.65
Renishaw	1899	+2.76	BTG	606	-2.57
Just Retirement Gp	144½	+2.40	Petrofac	1127	-2.17

EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (A\$)	1.7099	New Zealand (\$)	1.8443
Canada (C\$)	1.7377	Norway (kr)	10.05
Czech Rep	31.83	Philippines (ps)	63.00
Denmark (kr)	8.9476	Poland (zl)	4.5903
Egypt (pd)	10.77	Singapore (S\$)	1.9659
Euro	1.2032	Sth Africa (rand)	16.78
Hong Kong (\$)	12.50	Sth Korea (wn)	1519.00
Hungary (ft)	347.77	Sweden (kr)	11.07
India (rp)	90.01	Switzerland (fr)	1.4602
Israel (sh)	5.2267	Taiwan (\$)	44.49
Japan (Y)	164.55	Thailand (baht)	48.39
Malaysia (rg)	5.059	Turkey (lira)	3.3723
Mexico (ps)	19.61	USA (US\$)	1.6223

FTSE 100
down 29.91 at 6791.55 at Close

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LANCASHIRE BULLETIN

Law firm recruits specialist Shru

LANCASHIRE law firm Napthens has appointed a professional services specialist as its new director of finance.

Shru Morris joins the growing law firm after more than 10 years in the sector, having worked as an accountant at national firm Baker Tilly, and more recently in the finance department at Weightmans Solicitors in Liverpool. She has experience of corporation and personal tax, mergers and acquisitions.

Business awards open for voting

DOWNTOWN Lancashire in Business will host the annual "Best of Lancashire" Business Awards at a gala dinner on November 13 at Stanley House Hotel, Mellor.

You can nominate your favourites for the awards in a range of categories that recognise and celebrate the companies and individuals.

To vote, follow the links at the organisation's website at www.downtowninbusiness.com

Boss completes leading course

THE managing director of Lancashire-based online estate agency tem-po.co.uk has graduated from one of the country's most prestigious business courses.

Lancaster University's LEAD programme is designed to improve the leadership of SMEs.

Annette Jones, who was appointed managing director in 2008, completed the 10 month development programme with other business leaders.

IN THE CITY

Trio probed over demise of Comet

THREE Deloitte accountants are to be investigated over the way they handled the collapse of retailer Comet, says business secretary Vince Cable.

The chain went under with the loss of 7,000 jobs and left the taxpayer with a bill of up to £26 million after an employment tribunal found that staff had not been consulted on the potential for redundancies.

The Insolvency Service has referred the three to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Shares surge as RBS rallies

A SURGE in Royal Bank of Scotland shares added £3 billion to the value of the state-backed lender today as it announced a doubling in first-half profits on the back of the resurgent economy.

The stock climbed as much as 15 per cent after RBS released the results a week early because they were "significantly stronger" than market expectations.

Vodafone boost after 4G demand

GROWING demand for 4G services has given a boost to Vodafone's recovery hopes in Europe, despite a fresh slide in quarterly revenues.

The mobile phone giant said its performance in several key European markets was showing signs of stabilisation. Vodafone said its consumer mobile business returned to growth in the UK.

Jobs lost as city branch is shut

By DAVID NOWELL

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A PRESTON car parts branch has been closed with the loss of nine jobs after Unipart Automotive Ltd went into administration.

Mark Orton, Will Wright, and Jonny Marston from KPMG have been appointed joint administrators to the company, one of the UK's largest independent suppliers of car parts, workshop consumables and garage equipment.

Headquartered in Solihull, Unipart operates a network of 180 branches and distribution hubs, including one in Great George Street, Preston, trading under the Unipart Automotive, Partco Autoparts, and Express Factors brands. It employs 1,813 people.

Immediately upon appointment, the administrators sold part of the business in a joint deal to Andrew



TEAM: Mark Orton of KPMG

Page, one of the UK's largest distributors of car parts, workshop equipment, tools and diagnostics, and The Parts Alliance. The deal will see Andrew Page acquire 21 branches and The Parts Alliance

a total of 12. A total of 361 staff employed across these sites have transferred to Andrew Page and The Parts Alliance with immediate effect.

The remainder of the Unipart Automotive business has ceased to trade and 1,244 members of staff have been made redundant. A total of 208 members of staff have been retained.

Unipart sites including Warrington and Lytham St Annes have transferred. But the garage in Great George Street, Preston, has closed with immediate effect.

Mark Orton of KPMG said: "Despite intensive efforts over recent weeks, a sale of the whole Unipart Automotive business could not be reached, and a buyer could only be found for 33 of the sites on a going concern basis."

The company also directly supports Unipart Car Care Centres, which are unaffected.

House rental prices up by nearly 3 per cent

AVERAGE private home rents in the North West have risen 2.9 per cent in the last 12 months, latest figures show.

The average private rent in the region now stands at £665 per month.

Nationally, the cost of renting a home in the UK has risen so quickly in parts of the UK that Greater London, the

CLOSE-UP HOUSING

South West and the South East of England are pushing the bounds of affordability, according to new findings released today from the June 2014 HomeLet Rental Index.

The data also suggests that

pockets of affordability are arising in the North East of England, Scotland and Wales, where there is greater parity between incomes and rental prices.

The HomeLet Rental Index, the largest monthly survey of private tenants in the UK, shows that the average UK private home rent rose by 6.3 per

cent over the year. The average rent in the UK now stands at £862 a month, compared to £811 a year ago.

This figure was inflated by very large rental increases in Greater London, where rents are up by 11.2 per cent.

Commenting on the report, Martin Totty, Barbon Insurance Group's Chief Executive

Officer, said: "The private rental sector continues to show strong growth with rental values increasing year on year across the country, with little exception.

"Although average incomes have also been rising, there are parts of the country where we are seeing affordability getting tighter."



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