

Delays alert for drivers in roadworks

DRIVERS are being warned they face delays when roadworks take place next week in East Kilbride.

The work in Westwood Road will start on Monday and it will be closed from the junction with Westwood Hill to the junction with Rockhampton Avenue.

There will be no access to Winnipeg Drive from Westwood Road. Alternative routes will be available to access Winnipeg Drive.

Weather permitting, the work is due to be completed in two weeks.

While the road is closed structural maintenance will also be carried on the pedestrian footbridge under a separate contract.

Art and craft course launch

ARTS and crafts are coming your way this autumn.

South Lanarkshire Council's arts development team is putting on courses involving music, drama, dance, new media, moving image and visual arts and crafts.

The courses take place at venues in Hamilton, Rutherglen, East Kilbride and Lanark.

For an arts brochure and bookings call 01698 452 299.

£8m centre will help give city artists world status



■ Malcolm Dickson, chairman of the Trongate 103 tenants' forum, carries a portrait of Mick Jagger into Trongate 103
Photograph: Colin Mearns

Work finishes on new venue in Merchant City

By PHIL MILLER

AN £8million arts centre in Glasgow's Merchant City has taken a giant step closer to opening.

Construction work on the six-storey former warehouse – which has a floor space similar to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum – has now finished.

Trongate 103, as it will be known, is ready to welcome its tenants – the artists and film-makers who will make it the “engine room” of Glasgow's cultural quarter.

The centre in King Street, has been developed by Glasgow City Council, Culture and Sport Glasgow and the Scottish Arts Council to be a home for eight separate galleries and more than 40 artist studios, as well as a cafe, film-making studios and public spaces.

George Ryan, executive member for development and regeneration, said: “The investment in our creative industries will pay off through underlining the city's



■ The main entrance of the six-storey Edwardian building

worldwide status in contemporary art and its attractiveness as a cultural destination.

“It is another landmark in the regeneration of the Merchant City. Hundreds of artists will be based at Trongate 103, with many thousands more coming through its doors to create, view or learn about art.”

The redevelopment of the Edwardian warehouse has taken five years.

It will be home to Glasgow Print Studio, Street Level Photoworks, the Transmission gallery, the Russian Cultural Centre, Glasgow Independent Studios, Sharmanka, Glasgow Media Access Centre, and Project Ability.

The Transmission gallery is known as one of

the city's key contemporary arts spaces, while Glasgow Print Studio, founded in 1972, has had a stream of leading Scottish artists, such as John Byrne, Alasdair Gray, and Adrian Wiszniewski, display their prints there.

Glasgow Media Access Centre is an acclaimed but low-budget, film-

It is another landmark in the area's regeneration

making body and the Russian cultural centre includes a Russian cafe, Cafe Cossachok.

The building, which has a public entrance on Argyle Street that will hold exhibitions, will be the home for all aspects of art, including print-

making, photography, digital media, film and video, sculpture, painting, and ceramics.

The eight companies are all in nearby accommodation but will move into the new arts centre this summer, ready for its official opening to the public in September.

There is also dedicated space for visiting international artists and several areas where artists and other people using the building can mingle and meet, as well as the offices of the Glasgow International contemporary art festival.

Trongate 103 will also offer education programmes for schools, and projects for youth and community groups.

The block is a conversion of three existing buildings.

It has been given £5.75m by Glasgow City Council, while the Scottish Arts Council's National Lottery Fund contributed £1.5m. Scottish Enterprise Glasgow gave £500,000, and the Merchant City Townscape Heritage Initiative £750,000.

It has been organised by the council, the eight organisations involved and Culture and Sport Glasgow, which runs the city's museums and art galleries.