



Business

Focus

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Say cheese!
New shop
is opened
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Toxin-free
cleaning with
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smell of
success
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IT 'geeks' getting folk back to work



GreenGeek staff at their warehouse on the Sydenham Industrial Estate. MHLIC-13-10-10 green geek Oct67

A GREEN friendly Leamington-based charity is helping volunteers to develop computer skills and working to get people back into work.

GreenGeek Computer Warehouse is a not-for-profit charity that helps businesses to make good use of older IT equipment, and can dispose of IT equipment that is being replaced as well as pick up old stock.

But they are also doing their bit for the community by working with volunteers who are seeking training and provide many opportunities for people who would like to get involved

By **JAMIE SMITH**
james.smith@leamingtoncourier.co.uk

in computing but lack the relevant experience.

In addition to this they are proactive in supporting people on Future Jobs Fund apprenticeships that help people back into qualified work.

Managing director of GreenGeek, Johnathon Weare said: "Its really great to see people with enthusiasm and ability that has sometimes gone unrecognised, turn into highly employable IT experts in a matter of

months."

The organisation, based on the Sydenham Industrial Estate, was only set up in April 2009 but already has four staff on apprenticeships, one contract member of staff and has helped 40 volunteers in IT training.

At the warehouse you can get refurbished and upgraded PCs, which they can provide by recycling decommissioned IT equipment to charities, private users and to small businesses.

For more information on Green-Geek call 0121 2880926 or go online. <http://greengeekteam.webs.com>

Charlie among new 'nine-to-five rebels'

BUSINESSWOMAN Charlie Marston has joined a growing number of 'nine-to-five rebels'.

She is one of the women who are turning their backs on conventional working patterns and starting their own businesses in order to successfully juggle work and family life.

With cuts to child benefits and impending VAT rises, mums need to work longer hours than ever before.

A study of more than 2,000 working mothers, undertaken by Avon and Netmums.com, shows that one in eight women plan to seek alternatives to nine-to-five employment to enable them to better balance career demands with family life.

While one in four mums say they have no flexibility in their current working situation, a further one in ten have taken action and started their own business

or gone freelance to have more control over their hours.

Charlie, 38, was a high-flying sales executive who traded her jet-set lifestyle in when she became a mum. She now has two young children, Jessica and Oliver. Realising she couldn't fit in the demands of being a mother to her young children with conventional working patterns, she decided to leave her full time job and start up her own Avon business. This has allowed her to be there for her children and still pursue a successful career that fits around her family life.

The findings and example set by Charlie show that women do feel empowered to act to improve their lives and are prepared to look beyond the traditional working system to find a solution to bring them closer to having it all.

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Green energy firm will appear on new channel

RENEWABLE energy specialists EOS Energy have been chosen to represent the solar power industry in a new documentary.

The company will be shown installing photovoltaic panels at a house in Warwickshire on PMGTV in December.

Footage will also be shown of the company's indoor training centre, which features a full sized domestic roof.

PMGTV is a new free satellite channel which specialises in 'How to'

documentaries. The channel can be found on Sky 201 and ITV Freesat 402.

Warwickshire based EOS Energy is part of Alumet Renewable Technologies, a specialist company providing renewable energy solutions, to both domestic and commercial markets across the UK. Managing director Gary Summers also runs one of the UK's leading commercial contractors, Alumet Systems. He said: "We are very excited about our exposure on PMGTV." www.eosenergy.co.uk

Florist Sarah's bridal bouquet is a winner

THE owner of Sarah Horne Flowers took two prizes in the National Interflora Florist of the Year competition, which was held recently in Manchester.

Sarah Horne came first in the Bridal Bouquet competition and in the competition to create a fascinator.

She said: "I am so thrilled

to win both competitions and most importantly with such high marks as this gives me a good chance of making it through to the grand final.

"I will know for sure in a couple of weeks when all of the marks have been collated."

The bridal bouquet took Sarah three days to make.



The Cotswold Cheese Company's new owner Jon Goodchild with wife Lisa and solicitor Nick Watts from Blythe Liggins. Picture submitted.

Pair say cheese to mark start of shop ownership

A WARWICK School old boy has swapped a computer mouse for a mouse's paradise.

Jon Goodchild, who spent 20 years running the European market of an American software company, is now the proud new owner of The Cotswold Cheese Company in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Mr Goodchild and his wife Lisa opened the shop having decided they wanted change of pace in their working lives.

He said: "It sounds very glamorous jetting around the world but it actually isn't much fun living out of a suitcase.

"I enjoyed my time in the corporate world but I knew I needed a change."

Having looked at a range of businesses the couple settled on the cheese company despite having little knowledge of the product.

Mr Goodchild said: "We've been eating cheese for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"We were fortunate in that the previous owner helped us learn and the hand-over was really easy.

"I was also lucky to find Nick Watts at Blythe Liggins Solicitors who helped me with the process of buying the business."

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Health is top of agenda for Ally

AN INTERNATIONAL rugby star-turned lawyer is on a crusade to make sure patients know their rights when it comes to matters of health.

Ally Taft, head of clinical negligence at leamington solicitors firm Alsters Kelley, played competitive rugby for 17 years and has taken part in Tough Guy and Man vs Horse events.

She said: "The majority of the time, the NHS does a fantastic job - and I've certainly appreciated the skills of casualty staff after a few heavy matches. But the system is not infallible and sometimes mistakes are made."

During the past year, the NHS Litigation Authority received



Ally Taft.

6,652 claims of clinical negligence against NHS bodies, but the number of claims brought against the NHS is less than one per cent of the total number of

adverse incidents.

Ms Taft said: "Patient safety has to be the priority for everyone in the NHS and the focus should be on cutting out avoidable errors.

"While the compensation awarded is necessary for the ongoing care of the victim, most claimants are actually more interested in getting the answers they need to get closure on the experience.

"It is about improving standards for future patients rather than persecuting the medical profession."

To find out more about the support offered by Alsters Kelley, go online.

www.alsterskelley.com

Ten-year anniversary for AEB

ONE of Europe's leading providers of logistics software is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a move to a new Leamington office.

AEB International Ltd has been providing the software for supply chain management and business services for 30 years

but is celebrating ten years of UK operations.

General manager Mark Branman said: "We have a fantastic team of specialists working for the company that are driving our business forward.

"I'm confident that we have a very exciting and successful

future ahead of us."

Their team has been steadily growing and to accommodate the larger workforce they are moving to a bigger office in Tachbrook Park on December 15, and they are also launching a new website.

www.aeb-international.co.uk