

South and East Yorkshire

Enterprise Express

The definitive small business e-newsletter



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Sheffield councillors pitch in to promote Small Business Saturday



Councillor Ben Curran with Ken Hepplestone from Criterion

Sheffield Councillors are demonstrating their commitment to the city's small business community by entering the Small Business Saturday Challenge, set for them by the FSB.

This has involved the councillors visiting local small businesses and taking a photographs of themselves with the company manager whilst displaying the Small Business Saturday flyer. Small Business Saturday falls on 5th December and Paul Blomfield MP will be awarding the Small Business Saturday Champion Trophy to the councillor who makes the most significant contribution. Everyone is invited to join us for the presentation at 2.30pm on Saturday 5 December on the Town Hall forecourt.

All the photos taken by the councillors have been compiled into a compendium, which you can view at: <http://www.fsb.org.uk/uploads/sbs%20compendium.pdf>

Rotherham offers start-up advice on Small Business Saturday

Thinking of starting a business and don't know where to start? Why not take advantage of Small Business Saturday?

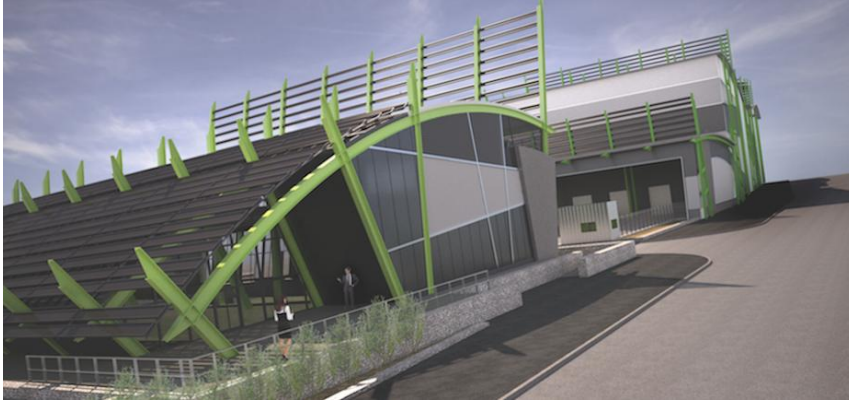
Aspiring business owners and existing entrepreneurs can benefit from free drop-in sessions, with the accredited and award-winning business advisors from Rotherham's Investment Development Office (RiDO), on Small Business Saturday (5 December).

The event is an ideal opportunity to find out about the various business support services on offer and the free Start-up training provided by RiDO. Those interested can call in anytime between 9.30am – 3.30pm at 34 High Street, Rotherham. For existing town centre businesses there will also be a gift wrapping service on offer to Christmas shoppers by the RiDO team on Howard Street (outside 'Superdrug').

At this time of the year some people will think about making a career change and setting-up a business is an option to consider. RiDO provides support through the whole process and can also point people in the right direction for other types of assistance.

More information at: <http://www.rido.org.uk/>

Energy Works secures funding for £200m green energy power plant in Hull



The developer of a green energy power plant has announced it had sealed a financial package and construction contract to enable the scheme to be delivered. The announcement by Spencer Group, the UK privately-owned multi-disciplinary engineering business, means construction of

the £200m Energy Works scheme in Hull is set to begin in January 2016, with the 25MW net power output facility due to be operational by January 2018.

Hull-based Spencer has spearheaded the Energy Works project since its conception in 2010, making a multi-million pounds investment through Energy Works (Hull) Ltd to take the scheme to its delivery phase. It will be the largest facility of its type in the UK and the first advanced gasification power plant supported by the Government's Contracts for Difference arrangements, which have been put in place to stimulate investment in green energy developments to achieve targets for carbon reduction.

Energy Works will generate electricity to power 43,000 homes and stimulate the economy through the creation of jobs during the construction phase and around 30 permanent positions once Energy Works is operational. It will also regenerate a long-disused brownfield site. In addition to feeding electricity into the National Grid, Energy Works will be able to provide power to local businesses, thereby enabling nearby companies to benefit from a locally-generated energy source and reduce their carbon footprint.

Read more at: <https://qoo.gl/L69mUB>

MP to officially switch on Pocklington's new radio station



director Tony Barker.

East Yorkshire MP Sir Greg Knight is to officially launch the newest radio station in the country. West Wolds Radio will go on the air on Sunday 29 November at 10.31am on 103.1FM and online from studios in Pocklington.

The station, run by volunteers, will broadcast a daily mix of music, news, features, events information and sport, with specialist programmes focusing on business and music. Sir Greg will be one of the first guests on West Wolds Weekend, presented jointly on the first day by station manager Stuart Cocker and

Stuart says: "It's a great start to have Sir Greg launching West Wolds Radio, an exciting new service in East Yorkshire and a new part of the community. We have lined up a series of guests for the first day to provide a varied mix of interesting talking points, from Pocklington Canal Amenity Society to local football."

The station will have a magazine programme on weekdays from 10am-2pm called West Wolds Daily and will include special guests, an events guide, short story and a featured decade of music.

An extra live programme will be broadcast on Wednesday 2 December when the station will celebrate Pocklington's Christmas Shopping Festival, organised by the Town Council. Stuart Cocker will host the show with live coverage from 4.00-8.00pm, supported by reporters Dan Scullane and Tony Barker in the Market Place as they keep shoppers informed of all the activities and find out about the entertainments at the event, including Rocking Rudolph's journey by the Pocklington District Lions.

More information about the station can be found at www.westwoldsradio.co.uk.

Independent review into Police's handling of child sexual exploitation



Dr. Alan Billings

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr Alan Billings, has requested an independent review into South Yorkshire Police's handling of reports of child sexual exploitation.

Professor John Drew has been commissioned to carry out the review and will produce a report to advise the Commissioner on whether he can have confidence that the Force's response to safeguarding children and young people has been adequate, not just in Rotherham but also across Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield.

The review will look at how the Force has handled reports of child sexual exploitation to ensure that everything that can be reasonably known about the past is known and will establish whether South Yorkshire Police have understood and acted upon the findings of reports and inspections into matters of child sexual exploitation.

The review is focussing initially on Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield, with Rotherham being looked at later in the process to ensure that it does not prejudice ongoing investigations and proceedings. Full details can be found on the independent website. This also includes a contact form for members of the public, victims and survivors and former and serving police officers to input into the review to share their experiences and information. A report will be presented to the PCC and will be made public early in 2016.

Anyone with any information should complete the contact form at: www.drewreview.uk

Preview of the new improved "Starting your business" e-learning guide

HMRC is launching a new Tax Guide exclusively to members of the FSB so you can benefit from its redesign whilst HMRC continues to test it to make further refinements.

HMRC wants its customers to get it right first time. Your feedback has influenced the development of this educational guide to help make it clear, interactive, flexible and easy to use. From choosing the right business structure and registering with HMRC to sending

a tax return, this guide is filled with useful, up to date information to support you as your business journey progresses.

View the new Tax Guide at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/courses/SYOB3/syob_3/html/syob_3_menu.html

New guidance for Horizon 2020 applicants

Innovate UK has published new guidance on how organisations can access Horizon 2020 funding support for research and innovation projects.

The Horizon programme will run until 2020 and its areas of focus are excellent science, industrial leadership and societal challenges. Funding opportunities are open to eligible organisations in an EU member state. Applications must be from a consortium of at least three organisations if they want to apply to run a standard research project. Each consortium member must be an organisation that has a legal standing, such as a registered business, partnership or charity.

A list of funding opportunities is available on the European Commission Participant Portal.

For guidance on applying for Horizon 2020 funding, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/horizon-2020-what-it-is-and-how-to-apply-for-funding>

For a list of funding opportunities, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Firms believe school leavers are not job ready



The 'Business and Education Survey 2015', published by the British Chambers of Commerce, has revealed that 69% of firms think that secondary schools are not preparing school leavers for work.

Survey respondents identified three key actions which they think should be adopted by secondary schools to help prepare school leavers for work. These actions are to embed key work skills in the curriculum, to teach recruitment and interview techniques, and to include direct contact with employers as part of career guidance.

John Longworth, General Director of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Preparing students to face potential employers should be given the same level of priority as academic achievement in schools across the UK."

For further information, go to: <http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/press-office/press-releases/bcc-businesses-and-schools-%E2%80%98still-worlds-apart%E2%80%99-on-readiness-for-work.html>

Family firms face barriers to trading overseas

The Institute for Family Business has published its monthly 'Policy Survey', which revealed that 60% of family firms not currently trading overseas cited a lack of local

market knowledge and a lack of resource in their firm. Other reasons included a lack of local partners and insufficient support from government agencies.

The survey also found that 71% of family firms that trade overseas have been doing so for at least 15 years, and the European Union, North America and Australia were the most popular overseas markets. Mark Hastings, Director General of the IFB, said: "It is concerning that family businesses still feel they do not have the right support needed to make the move abroad, particularly when there is such a wealth of resources and information available to firms in the UK - many of which are completely free to use."

For further information, go to: <http://www.ifb.org.uk/share/family-business-news/confidence-up-amongst-family-firms-but-barriers-to-export-still-exist>

HMRC customer service under fire

The Committee of Public Accounts has criticised HMRC for failing to provide an acceptable level of customer service. The committee found that HMRC only answered 72.5% of customer calls in the tax year 2014/15, and only 50% of calls in the first six months of 2015.

In 2014/15, HMRC also only answered 39% of calls within 5 minutes. The committee recommended that HMRC should establish the impact that poor customer service has on tax revenues and produce a plan detailing how and when it will improve its service.

For further information, go to:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2015/hmrc-performance-report-published-15-16>

Cyber security research scheme launched

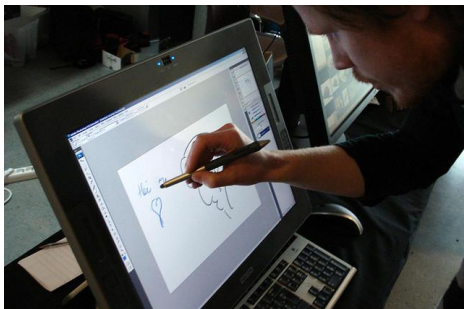
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport along with GCHQ (the UK Government Communications Headquarters) have launched a new cyber security research scheme.

The CyberInvest research scheme will merge the expertise of business, academia and various government departments, to allow organisations to benefit from both existing and new knowledge. Business participation in the scheme is being encouraged and smaller organisations with fewer than 10 employees can participate with a minimum financial contribution of £10,000. Currently, 18 organisations have joined the scheme and contributed £6.5 million.

For further information about the scheme, go to:

<http://www.computerweekly.com/news/4500257118/Government-launches-cyber-security-research-project>

Design in innovation strategy published



Innovate UK has launched its 'Design in innovation strategy 2015-2019'. The objective of the strategy is to encourage UK firms to use design to help increase economic growth. As part of the strategy, Innovate UK will promote the use of early-stage design, and take steps to raise awareness of the value of design and innovation throughout the UK. It will also fund early-stage 'design foundations' in its priority areas and invest in design within collaborative funded projects.

The strategy will also encourage design and technology communities to collaborate on a national and local basis.

For further information about Innovate UK's design and innovation strategy, go to:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-by-design-strengthening-uk-business-and-boosting-growth>



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