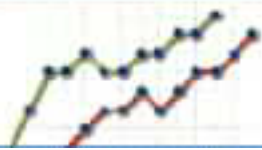


Business news



Company briefing

■ COBHAM-based Recognition Express Mid-Surrey has teamed up with a national award-winning gift company — to make your life easier.

The Tartar Road outfit, which specialises in corporate recognition goods, has secured an exclusive deal with Krisis Kit — providers of the only kit you need in a crisis. The companies have produced the Hotel Krisis Kit providing things guests need for a night away but often forget to bring, including a razor, shaving gel, toothbrush and toothpaste.

Krisis Kit's Theresa Summers said: "The kits are branded and can be taken away for future use, providing guests with a handy lasting reminder of their experience at the hotel."

■ LODGE Brothers, the family owned funeral directors, is once again backing bowls clubs by sponsoring their annual bowls tournaments.

The company has agreed to sponsor two open bowls tournaments being held at Chertsey and Weybridge Bowls Clubs.

The Chertsey Invitation is a one-day tournament and will be held on Bank Holiday Monday May 28. The Lodge Open Triples at Weybridge is also a one-day competition to be held on Sunday August 5.

Robert Lodge, chairman of Lodge Brothers, said: "As a local family owned funeral directors serving local communities for more than 225 years, we believe it is important we play our part in supporting and helping to finance events such as these very popular bowls tournaments."

■ THE two oldest law firms in Weybridge have merged, in what was described as a "dovetailing" process by one of the partners.

The new company comprises Guillaume and Gosling & Wilkinson law firms, and came into being on April 1. It is now known as Guillaume, Gosling & Wilkinson.

Gosling & Wilkinson was founded by John Gosling in the 19th century. He sold the firm to Bertie Wilkinson in 1925, and the firm acquired its full name.

Guillaume was established in 1836, and settled in Church Street in 1955, before moving to Queen's Road in 1999.

Call 01932 840 111 or 01932 849 141.

Husband and wife team can help you to look your best

by Chantal Harris

TRINNY and Susanna step aside, husband and wife team Robert and Rose-Ann Day have launched a new business to help people to look and feel their best in time for the summer.

Personal trainer Robert and Rose Ann, an image consultant, have joined forces to provide a service for people who want to improve both their style and body shape over a short period of time.

They have teamed up with the *News & Mail* to offer one lucky reader a free two hour style consultation and fitness assessment together with a personal training session that is guaranteed to get you on track in time for the swimsuit season.

The couple decided to pool skills after realising there was a

gap in the market for this kind of service in Elmbridge.

Robert said: "I have been a personal trainer for six to seven years. A lot of people want to get healthy but a lot of people just want to look better and feel better in their clothes. It made sense to join together."

The service, which costs £2,000, begins with a consultation lasting two hours with both Rose-Ann and Robert, which includes a lifestyle and fitness assessment.

The client then embarks upon an eight-week fitness regime where they undergo personal training sessions three times a week.

As their body shape starts to transform, Rose-Ann is on hand to offer a style consultation, which includes a colour direction and wardrobe management session.

After eight weeks of training when the client has achieved

their target body shape and has a new found sense of style, they will be taken on a three-hour personal shopping trip.

Rose-Ann said image is increasingly important in today's world and people often judge each other before they have spoken.

She said: "If you think of the last person you met who made a big impact on you, they have achieved this through their first impression. You begin to analyse them including what they are wearing."

"I know one man who didn't get a job because he was wearing a plastic watch."

Rose-Ann offers one off style consultations from £35 and believes people from all walks of life can benefit from her service.

She said: "It is about getting the class system out of your mind. It saves you so much money."

"It is very easy to have 100 pieces of clothing in the wardrobe and still say 'I've got nothing to wear'."

Rose-Ann said making people feel better about themselves has a knock on effect on the way they live their lives.

She said: "People smile more, perform better at work, they approach life with so much more confidence."

■ For the chance to win a personal consultation with Robert and Rose-Ann and a personal training session answer the following question: How many weeks training will clients undergo? A)Eight, B)Three, C)12

Send your answers marked 'Win a Makeover' by May 9 to newsandmail@esher.co.uk or on a post card to Win a Makeover, News & Mail, 134 High Street, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9QJ.



Steve Clark from Dagenham Motors is delighted with the award.

Customer service accolade for motability specialists

MOTABILITY specialists in Cobham have had their efforts recognised with a national award.

Dagenham Motors on Portsmouth Road has been recognised for its outstanding customer service and commitment in helping disabled people use cars.

The garage is part of Ford Retail, which won Dealer Group of the Year at an awards ceremony held by Motability, the national car scheme for disabled motorists.

Cobham salesman Steve Clark said: "We're thrilled to have received this award. It is excellent recognition for our Motability specialists who are dedicated to ensuring our disabled customers get the best from the scheme using our expert knowledge and hands-on experience."

"Our investment in vehicle adaptation and disability awareness training to ensure they understand the specific needs of disabled motorists was a key factor in winning the award."

The UK Motability car scheme provides a new car complete with tax, insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and replacement tyres to disabled people and their families.

Motability, which currently supports 450,000 disabled motorists, buys 7% of all new cars in the UK across 34 different manufacturers, with more than 3,000 makes and models represented on the scheme.

For more information about Motability call 08700 553115.



WOMEN are not the only ones who want to look their best and, thanks to a new Weybridge business, men now have the chance to shop till they drop an ensure they make heads turn too. Visit Impeccable at 119 Queen's Road, Weybridge.

Businesswoman shortlisted as best virtual assistant

A BUSINESSWOMAN from Walton has been shortlisted in the hunt for the UK's most outstanding 'virtual assistant' (VA) of 2007.

The National VA of the Year Awards ceremony takes place on Saturday in Milton Keynes, with Alexandra Greer of Just Too Busy a nominee in the "In business 18 months and over" category.

The role of a virtual assistant is to provide administrative aid to a client as an independent contractor. The VA is usually highly skilled in office administration and works from home — making their presence in an office 'virtual'.

Ms Greer said: "This is the first national awards scheme of its kind, aimed at boosting awareness of virtual assistance, and I am absolutely delighted to be considered for the accolade."

"This is an established profession in the United States, but was almost unheard of in

the UK until a few years ago, and I am proud to be a part of this rapidly growing and highly professional industry."

Ms Greer launched her business in July 2005, and boasts more than 15 clients. She was described by judges as an organisational whiz, with expert prioritisation, efficiency and time management skills. Winners' prizes include a PR campaign for the chosen business, a marketing consultation, a professionally designed winner's logo, a certificate and free training.

Ms Greer said: "My skill set has been developed over the years and is constantly being added to, owing to my fundamental interest in learning new things and also from the point of view of being able to offer my clients a comprehensive service."

The event will support children's charity Promise Dreams, with a raffle to raise vital funds.

New marketing executive is under starters' orders at track

SANDOWN Park has appointed Cristina Wray as the venue's new events marketing executive.

The new role is in addition to the event sales team.

With more than 500 non-racing events held every year, Cristina is set to promote the development of Sandown Park as more than just a racecourse.

Cristina has joined Sandown Park from a leading organiser of healthcare conferences and exhibitions Healthcare Events and has worked in the marketing field since graduating from Oxford Brookes University in 2001.

Having worked at conferences in many top venues Cristina was surprised to see a racecourse had such excellent facilities and could cater for up to 600 delegates. With her experience in the events



Cristina Wray.

will be launched early next month.

Cristina has attended training days and corporate events at various racecourses and has first hand experience of the events she is set to promote.

She enjoys socialising and has spent a substantial amount of time living and working in Italy where she studied the language and developed a love of fashion, cooking, art and anything Italian.

For more information about events at Sandown Park contact the event sales team on 01372 464348, email sandown.events@jockeyclubracecourses.com or visit www.sandown.co.uk.

To contact Cristina directly call 01372 461282 or email cristina.wray@jockeyclubracecourses.com.

Accountancy firm warns of tougher regulations for financial sector

ACCOUNTANTS and business adviser Wellden Turnbull is warning the recent proposals by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) for a money laundering clampdown could carry implications for businesses considered high risk.

The proposed new measures

are part of the government's strategy to fulfil the European Union's new money laundering directive in order to ensure the UK is equipped to deal with the growing problem.

The tougher and increasingly targeted regulations would affect all businesses deemed as

at high risk, including more than 200,000 firms across the financial and legal sectors, as well as insurance brokers, estate agents and casinos.

Businesses in the regulated sector will not only have to comply with new money laundering requirements but also

perform extra checks on customers posing a high risk for money laundering.

Simon Spevack, partner at Cobham-based Wellden Turnbull, said: "The only way to tackle financial fraudsters is to regulate every aspect of the economy they could potential-

ly utilise so there is effectively nowhere left for them to hide."

"Businesses involved with large volumes of money will undoubtedly feel the weight of the proposed increased regulations. Such drastic measures are needed in order to reduce the hazard of money launder-

ing to the wellbeing of the British economy."

The government is proposing to implement the regulations by December 2007.

Wellden Turnbull is a member of the UK200 Group and is at www.wtca.co.uk and can be contacted on 01932 868444.

Eco-friendly homes

A NEW housing development in Thames Ditton is offering Eco savvy buyers the chance to help the environment.

Knight Frank estate agents has recently sold a site to Michael Shanley Homes in Thames Ditton, which will

be turned into 28 apartments built using energy efficient materials.

The development on Embercourt Road will be built using a mixture of insulation materials and solar heating panels to increase its energy efficiency.

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TJ Bathrooms is adding three great new services to its already-strong in-house capabilities. Whether you are looking for power showers, a full bathroom refurbishment, wall or floor tiling, electrical works, plumbing, guttering, roofing, new central heating systems and boiler replacements, then TJ Bathrooms in Cobham is the place to go.

But expert staff can now also offer additional services.

Walk-in showers are popular for young and old and TJ Bathrooms can provide full walk-in, floor level shower areas. Just ask in store for full information.

In addition the company now offers full boiler repairs and breakdown service for all boilers. Corgi certificated engineers ensure a top notch service and can also carry out power flushing to remove sludge from pipework, radiators and boilers. If that is not enough your building needs can also now be catered for. All types of small and large building works can be undertaken from plastering to

replacement windows, internal and external decoration, extensions, conservatories and patios.

This is more than just a bathroom store so pop in to 121 Anyards Road, e-mail tjbathrooms@ntlbusiness.com or call 01932 866471 for more information.

One-stop shop for health and beauty

OPTIMA Health and The Beauty Salon, Cobham, have merged to provide a one-stop shop for all your health and beauty needs.

The main focus of the centre is to provide clients with a first class service from highly-professional and skilled therapists in a comfortable and tranquil environment.

In October last year Tara Maynard moved into Church Street, bringing more than 10 years' experience as a beauty therapist. She specialises in bio-culture nails, waxing and pamper sessions. Contact her on 07810 503558 or 01932 862802.

Amanda Allan is a clinical nutritionist and can help you achieve your goals whether you want to improve how you look or if you have serious health concerns.

Michelle Hillman is a reflexologist and massage therapist who used her business knowledge to set up Optima with Amanda. She has had superb results dealing with clients' stress, blood pressure, depression, digestive issues and much more.

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