

Parklife

SHIP SIM LAUNCHED

TENANT NEWS

TOP GEAR & THE DAM

WATER SAVING
AND MORE...

Feb 2015

Howbery Business Park - Wallingford

Parklife



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Hello - Goodbye!

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Farewell Susie

As many of you will already know Susie has decided to leave the Catering team and move on to pastures new.

Susie has been part of the catering team since she started at Howbery Business Park in 2006, and for a large part of that has worked in the preparation and delivery of our Hospitality service here on site. Susie has worked with us to develop this side of our business by helping us to grow and improve our service and always delivering to the customer with a smile on her face.

For many years Susie has also been a first aider here on site and has carried out these duties impeccably and again with a friendly smile or sometimes with a "you didn't want to do that, did you?" advisory comment.

We all wish Susie the very best in her new career and thank her for all that she has done here at Howbery Business Park.

Goodbye

hello!

And hello to...

Travel & Tourism PR agency Seriously PR based in the Stables on Howbery Park welcomes new team member Aisha Kellaway as an Account Manager.

Aisha will be working on public relations and social media campaigns for local clients including Millets Farm, Eynsham Hall and Full Circle Travel.

www.seriouslypr.co.uk





Jewel Training charity fundraising

Jewel Training are entering the Thames Path Challenge in September to raise money for the Epilepsy Society. "Team Jewel" will be walking 25km along the Thames Path, from Cookham to Henley on Sunday 13th September. Each Team member has to raise at least £175 in sponsorship for the charity.

To help us on our way, we will be taking part in the international, epilepsy awareness "Purple Day" on 26th March. We will have a stall in the Manor House near the restaurant where you can come along and take part in our "guess the weight of the cake" and "guess how many sweets in the jar" competitions. Please come and see us on 26th March between 12 and 2pm in the Manor House.

Jewel Training wanted to choose a charity to support and Julie Johns, Director, was looking for something that the Jewel team could do together. Julie says, "I discussed with my team which charity we could support and how, and Toni Taylor, my Operations Manager, suggested the Epilepsy Society."

Toni says, "My brother, Martin, suffered with epilepsy from the age of two, until his death when he was only 29. He experienced grand mal (or generalised tonic-clonic) seizures, which were not only debilitating for him, but very distressing to witness for our family as well. He spent a lot of

time in hospital and attended regular hospital out-patient appointments, as well as being treated on a variety of drugs, throughout his life. I was often amazed at his ability just to stand up, considering the number of Mogadon; Diazepam; Triazepan; etc that he had to take each day. This meant that he missed a lot of school; he wasn't allowed to learn to drive; he never had a job. He died "status epilepticus" (a seizure which could not be stopped) when he was 29, but epilepsy had taken his life a long time before that. If by walking 25km on the Thames Path, I can help to prevent just one family experiencing what we did, then it will be worth the blisters!"

Full details of how you can sponsor us is on our website – www.jewel-training.co.uk – as well as the link to our donations page. If everyone on Howbery Park just donated £1, we would be well on our way to achieving our fundraising goal. Thank you!



Full Steam Ahead!



We are continuing to see water savings so far this year of 264,000 litres of water compared to 2013 through our Central Steam Boiler which requires mains water for operational purposes, this has been mainly due to heating plant upgrade during summer of 2014 following an audit of our steam heating system.

Although hit with a few problems this year with our steam boiler, we continue to carry out improvements where we can to our steam heating system network.

For all you anoraks out there, if you would to more about our steam boiler or even want to take a tour around our steam boiler and associated plantrooms then please contact Paul directly to arrange a visit!

Water saving

In 2104, Howbery Park Estates has saved 605,000 litres of water compared to 2013, that's enough water to fill nearly 2 average size swimming pools!

605,000 litres





HR Wallingford gets Top Gear to the dam top!

We like to think that no dam challenge is too steep for our engineers. However, helping BBC Top Gear's Richard Hammond 'drive' a Land Rover up the face of Claerwen Dam in Wales was a little unusual, even for us! When Top Gear were shooting a feature for their latest series (episode aired 15 February 2015 in the UK), this was exactly the challenge faced by our Dams Business Manager, Craig Goff.

In tribute to the soon-to-be-discontinued Land Rover Defender, the Top Gear team wanted to recreate an iconic advert which sees the Land Rover drive up the face of a dam during its spectacular finale. In his role as the Supervising Panel Engineer for this reservoir, Craig was asked by dam owners Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to review the BBC method statements, advise on loadings to be placed on the dam and to supervise filming to ensure that the safety equipment installed for the stunt didn't damage the structure of the dam.

Craig said: "I never thought I'd get to combine my two real passions: dam engineering and cars! I'm a real petrol head and a big Top Gear fan, so I was delighted when Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water asked me to help out."

HR Wallingford has team of dam specialists who have many years' experience in the inspection, supervision and condition assessment of dams, both in the UK and internationally.



*Top Gear's Richard Hammond with
Dams Business Manager, Craig Goff.*



What is Happening in The Manor House Restaurant?

Themed lunches to look forward to:-

19th Feb Celebrate Chinese New Year

We will be serving a Chinese inspired menu on this day, including Toffee Banana Fritters.

17th March Join us for St Patrick's Day

Celebrate with a selection of Irish inspired dishes, which will include a drop of the black stuff in the cooking I'm sure.

25th March Greek Day

Our team will be preparing and serving some lovely Greek dishes for you to try.

23rd April St George's Day

Celebrate with us and some traditional dishes .

11th-17th May British Sandwich Week

We will be offering some unusual sandwich fillings and special offers from Monday to Friday of this week.



So why not make a date to join us on these days?

Lord Heseltine opens unique marine modelling facilities at HR Wallingford

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Heseltine CH will be amongst the first to see some of the world's most sophisticated marine modelling facilities in operation today (30 October) when he officially opens HR Wallingford's UK Ship Simulation Centre and the Fast Flow Facility at Howbery Business Park in Oxfordshire.

Developments in the ocean can be high risk; fast moving deep water, powerful waves and the ever shifting seabed present significant technical challenges. These new facilities will be used by HR Wallingford to simulate the

conditions in coastal and offshore waters, allowing them to assess and improve the way structures perform in the complex marine environment before they are built for real.



L-R: Dr Stephen Huntington, Dr Bruce Tomlinson, Lord Heseltine, Dr Jane Smallman.



The Fast Flow Facility is the most recent extension to HR Wallingford's extensive physical modelling facilities. The 75 m long, 8 m wide dual-channel flume can hold a million litres of water, generate 1 m high waves and produce fast tidal currents to simulate the way waves, tides, sediments and structures interact.

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Professor Richard Whitehouse, Technical Director of the Fast Flow Facility, said:

“What makes the Fast Flow Facility unique is the way we can simulate sediment movement, big waves and fast tidal currents at the same time. No one else can do this, certainly not at such a large scale.

“We can now look at the way waves and currents move sediment on the seabed in deep water at a large scale, and understand what this means for fixed or floating structures such as marine terminals, offshore wind turbines, wave and tidal energy devices, telecommunication and power cables and pipelines. Modelling large structures and arrays without compromising on scale will help us to reduce uncertainty, optimise designs and more effectively minimise project risks for our clients during the very early stages of a project.”

The UK Ship Simulation Centre houses the latest evolution of HR Wallingford’s advanced navigation simulation technology: four real-time ship simulators, including two dedicated tug simulators. Each simulator is a functioning ship or tug’s bridge surrounded by a 360-degree simulated environment. The four simulators can be run separately or together to allow different vessels in the same simulated environment to interact. They can also link with the six simulators located in HR Wallingford’s Fremantle Ship Simulation Centre in Australia.

Dr Mark McBride, Manager of HR Wallingford’s Ship Simulation Centres, said:

“Safe and reliable navigation is a fundamental requirement of marine development projects, especially with the growing challenge to access new and more demanding locations. We use the simulators to support the design of ports, harbours and marine terminals, to refine operations in the marine environment and to provide specialist pilot training.



Our new simulator suite uses state of the art technology, and they combine HR Wallingford’s extensive hydraulic modelling capabilities with ship handling models. What adds real value for our clients is the support of our expert team of experienced maritime engineers, master mariners, pilots, tug masters, naval architects and software modelling experts, all underpinned by HR Wallingford’s broader maritime and coastal engineering capabilities.”

Dr Jane Smallman, HR Wallingford’s Managing Director, said:

“I’d like to thank Lord Heseltine for joining us today to open the UK Ship Simulation Centre and the Fast Flow Facility. These new world class facilities are part of a £3 million development by HR Wallingford to extend our internationally recognised expertise in maritime and coastal engineering. It’s the vision and foresight of our staff that drives these technical developments forward, allowing us to give our clients advice and solutions informed by leading edge science and technology.”

BUMPER CHRISTMAS FOR CATERING AT HOWBERY BUSINESS PARK

As many of you know we have catered for parties joining us for traditional Christmas Lunch for many years now at Howbery Business Park, but Christmas 2014 saw a bumper year for on-site staff parties and local friends, clubs and societies gathering to enjoy one of what was probably many Christmas lunches eaten throughout December.

Our dedicated team catered for a total of 169 guests, over three separate dates during the month, who joined us for their three course Christmas Lunch which was served in the picturesque setting of our Blackstone, Du Cros and De Morney rooms in the Manor House. Very well done to all in the Catering team.

These lunches attracted many of our

regular tenants and a pleasing number of our newer customers to the park, with everyone seeming to enjoy the Christmas atmosphere that we created and the food we served.

As well as our pre booked lunches we also offered the full Christmas Lunch experience on two separate days during the month through our hotplate, offering a choice of food including that all important Roast Turkey and Christmas Pudding.

Thank you to all who joined us last Christmas, we hope you all enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to welcoming you back later this year when we will do it all again.



Ship Simulator also creates a big splash for local Property Agents

Local commercial property agents didn't need to be press-ganged into taking part in a ship simulator challenge at in the new UK Ship Simulation Centre last year.

Part of the continuing marketing programme for the Park includes close dialogue with commercial property agents around the region.

"It's important that Agents know exactly what we've got on offer here" says Angela Andrews, Letting Manager at Howbery Business Park.

"We're keen to evolve the site and close consultation with Agents enables us to keep abreast of demands in the property market, and enables us to fine-tune our plans".

She continues "There is constant demand for smaller office space, which is great for us, but planning for the bigger development area needs a slightly different approach".

The agents were tasked with bringing a 24m trawler into an Irish harbour in varying sea states.

The winning skipper, Duncan May from Oxford agents VSL & Partners, delivered the boat relatively unscathed and received a well-deserved prize for his seamanship

He commented "It was a great morning, lots of fun, and interesting

to see how Howbery Business Park has developed. This is certainly one of the nicest locations in the region with massive potential for development. For relocating companies it's a very attractive proposition."



Richard Venables and winning skipper Duncan May (complete with prize), both from VSL & Partners with Howbery Business Park's Lettings Manager Angela Andrews. Shown here on the bridge of the ship simulator.

Style Acre - Celebrating 25 Years of creating opportunities for people with learning disabilities

Style Acre is a Wallingford based charity, providing supported living and day opportunities for people with learning disabilities throughout Oxfordshire.

At Style Acre's heart is the commitment to helping people with learning disabilities make their own choices about the lives they want to lead and respecting them as individuals. The charity works in partnership with individuals and their families to achieve this.

This year, Style Acre is celebrating 20 year, although i the charity's story began really 30 years ago, when in 1985, a house called Style Acre in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell was bought to provide residential care for 19 people with learning disability.

Ten years later in 1995, the owners wanted to retire and families of people supported bought the home, creating Style Acre, the charity.

During this time, Style Acre was an early pioneer of 'person-centred' services, where people were enabled to make their own decisions about their lives as much as possible, at a time where the objective for many providers was to provide a safe and caring environment, but one where people had little choice or control over their lives.



As Style Acre's person-centred approach evolved, it was felt that the people should live in their community, rather than in a home and, with the right support, could learn skills to live more independently.

So, in 2004, Style Acre sold the home in Brightwell and bought a number of ordinary houses in local towns and villages, enabling the people it supported to live with their friends. In 2004, Style Acre supported 20 people; today, dedicated carers support 70 people in 30 houses, enabling and facilitating the lives of those they support in dynamic and varied ways.



(continued overleaf)

Style Acre ensured those it supported could participate in a range of activities by providing a day service. Now, Style Acre's 'day opportunities' supports over 120 people at two centres in Wallingford and Didcot. They support people with a full range of learning disability – from those needing 1:1 support and with complex needs, to people who can live independently. Both offer recreational and social opportunities, teach a wide range of skills such as 'Independent Living', and help people find volunteer, work opportunities and community involvement. This year, responding to requests from families and professionals in north Oxfordshire, Style Acre will open a new service for people with mild to moderate learning disabilities in Banbury, providing supported living flats in the floors above the building.

Along with a charity shop in Wallingford, Style Acre opened a Tea Room in Blewbury in 2011 and in 2014, a market garden in Wantage, providing work experience for the people it supports.

The charity has also developed an award-winning project, 'Technology for Independence', ensuring people have access to technologies that will enhance their lives and increase their independence.

Style Acre has an excellent reputation within the learning disability, the community and Social Services; it is forward-looking and committed to developing new services where there is a need. Never complacent, Style Acre is continually looking for ways to improve the lives of the people they support. People with learning disabilities and their families choose Style Acre, because it goes that extra mile, striving to enable people to reach their full potential.



Marathon Man runs for Style Acre



Chris Savage, Publisher of Round & About Magazine based on the park, has undertaken the challenge of running the London Marathon in April this year for Style Acre.

The registered charity, also based on Howbery Park, enhances the lives of people with learning disabilities in creative and innovative ways. Each and every individual they support is valued and helped to lead a meaningful life whilst realising their potential.

Style Acre is committed to enabling the people they support make choices about their lives. They provide day opportunities, supported living, work development and community involvement for adults with learning disabilities, across Oxfordshire.

We are aiming to raise £2500 and we currently stand at £694.25. When you're next passing through the Cafeteria you will see two collection pots (one at each till) so if you can make a donation it would not only be greatly appreciated by Style Acre and myself but most importantly all the people whose lives are supported by the great work done by everyone at charity.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thanks to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day. As you can see we raised £89.40 for Save the Children.





News... News... News

A Note From The Editor:



Keep us posted – to include your news and stories in Parklife, please email them to me, Angela Andrews a.andrews@howberypark.com

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