

Businessnews

Where your membership counts

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

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FEBRUARY 2008

Congratulations to Chamber members

PICK EVERARD

Iconic Isle of Wight College on course for 21st century



Multi-disciplinary design practice Pick Everard has been awarded a contract to design a new £60million Isle of Wight College. With an award-winning track record in the further education sector, Pick Everard's architectural approach will be to create an iconic, sustainable college building with real 'wow' factor that will attract international architectural interest, make the college appealing to students and staff in an increasingly competitive market and will act as a catalyst for regeneration and inward investment to the island.

Originally built in 1951 to teach construction and engineering, the college currently offers a range of Further Education courses, with a strong emphasis on vocational training. The new buildings will form a hub from which the college will offer a range of education and training provision including Higher Education, academic provision, a business centre as well as traditional vocational activity which will strengthen links with the South Coast economy.

Pick Everard has now successfully completed a programme of intensive consultation with staff, students, governors and the local community to ensure that the new college is designed to truly reflect their needs and aspirations. Sustainability emerged from these discussions as a top priority as did the need to incorporate more informal social spaces for small groups to meet and the need for flexible teaching spaces. Priorities for the look and feel of the college included a very prominent and striking entrance; use of glass to create airy, light spaces and a stronger link between internal and external elements - a much more open feel overall and very different from the more traditional corridors and walls. Some commercially orientated courses such as catering and hair and beauty will also be given a retail frontage for the benefit of the wider community.

Pick Everard will use its considerable environmental expertise to design buildings that will be cost-effective and environmentally sustainable. Environmental manager at Pick Everard Andrew Bannister says, "The building will be designed using the latest dynamic thermal modelling to make sure that heating, lighting and ventilation systems use as little energy as possible. Low carbon energy sources such as heat pumps and solar thermal systems are being considered, as well as green construction materials like timber, lime and recycled concrete substitutes. This is an opportunity for the Isle of Wight to gain a showcase of affordable environmental excellence."

College Principal, Debbie Lavin commented, "I am very excited by this opportunity to develop a 21st century learning environment for both the College and Island people and look forward to working with Pick Everard in realising this ambition."

Architect and Pick Everard partner Tom Allen comments: "At Pick Everard our focus is to design facilities which truly reflect the aspirations of all stakeholders. We have a unique opportunity to not only do this but also to provide a beacon for exemplary learning on the island well into the 21st century."

Continued on reverse...

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Submission for outline planning approval will take place later this month. Approval will also be sought from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which will also provide substantial funding for the project. Submission for full planning permission is planned for July 2008 with expected completion in September 2010. Construction will be phased to minimise disruption to learning.



Combe Florey Kitchen

The English Manner has had a most successful first 9 months of trading for Combe Florey Kitchen, producing speciality foods using local produce from their local kitchens, and are now selling on line as well as delicious ready made gourmet meals delivered to your door. They also offer a bespoke private catering service for private and corporate events, such as business lunches, christenings and funeral clients. They also have gift vouchers available for that perfect gift!

To find out more, call The English Manner on 01823 431 888 or visit their website at www.theenglishmanner.com



De-commissioning of Hinkley "A" Power Station

For our March 2008 networking event, Taunton Chamber of Commerce is planning a business visit to Magnox South at Hinkley Point, Bridgwater to learn more about the de-commissioning of Hinkley "A" Power Station. The visit will include lunch followed by a presentation and tour of the plant, lasting from about 12.30pm through to 4.00pm.

Places on this visit are limited, due to security restrictions at the site, so will be on a "first come, first served" basis. If you are interested in joining us in what promises to be a very interesting and informative visit, then please email Jane in the Chamber office at office@taunton-chamber.co.uk in the first instance to express your initial interest. Further details of the event will be published as soon as they become available.



Taunton hotel welcomes two new Bex onto team

Two new team members have joined The Holiday Inn Taunton as part of its continuing growth - and they're both called Bex.

Becky Sprangle (left) joins from Business Link as the new Account Manager; and Becki Thompson joins as the hotel's new locally qualified beauty therapist.

Becky Sprangle's role is to drive sales in the already highly successful hotel. With a background in events and marketing, Becky is well known in the area through her work at previous employer Business Link. She brings considerable hotel experience; having left university with a degree in Tourism Management, she has also worked with luxury hotel group von Essen and The Cleve Hotel.

Becki Thompson joins the team at Spirit, Holiday Inn's healthclub, as the new highly qualified full time beauty therapist. Becki previously worked at the Treatment Bar in Taunton and has just returned from a three month spell in Greece, where she worked for Mark Warner holidays in a busy resort. Becki achieved a triple merit Award in her BTEC National Diploma in Beauty, at Bridgwater College and has considerable experience using Spirit's key products of Dermalogica, St Tropez & Jessica.

Holiday Inn Taunton offers a wealth of meeting and conference space, as well as being an ideal party or dinner venue for up to 240 people. The Spirit health club has memberships available which offer unlimited use of the fully equipped gym, swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna. Beauty treatments are available to both members (10% discount) and non-members. For more information call 01823 281680.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 3rd March

Networking Business Lunch at The Great Hall, Taunton Castle
£10.50 Members and Guests Welcome
Guest Speaker: Mr Tom Mayberry on "The New Museum for Somerset"

Last opportunity to see the building before it closes for refurbishment until at least 2009

Booking Form enclosed

Wednesday 26th March

Business Visit to Magnox South, Hinkley A
To include Lunch, tour & presentation
£12.50 Members and Guests Welcome

Further details and Booking Form with March Newsletter

TAUNTON

For Membership, General Information & Administration: **call 01823 353353**
For Promotion & Event Hosting:
Email office@taunton-chamber.co.uk
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WELLINGTON

For further information about Wellington Chamber, contact: The Secretary - Toni-Anne Blight Email: toni-anne@tiscali.co.uk

SOMERSET

For further details of Somerset Chamber Events, contact: Katie Baines, Somerset Chamber Co-ordinator on 01823 444924
Email: manager@somerset-chamber.co.uk

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