



“Skills to do come from doing” Waldo Emerson

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Recession? What Recession :The “Feel Good Factor” Is Alive And Kicking ..In Woolwich Arsenal

February 20, 2009

EVERYONE remembers where they were when something very important happened. Like when Jamaican Usain Bolt blitzed the 100 and 200 meter world record in the Beijing Olympic astonishing the world. It was nearly a similar feeling at our first ever networking event for businesses. Were you there, or did heard the whisper? Or missed the best networking event this side of the river?

The “**Meet the Neighbours**” networking afternoon for local businesses was a roaring success.

More than 45 local enterprises turned up for the first ever such networking event held in the historic Old Royal Military Academy in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

The initiative for the event was to

highlight and tap the entrepreneurial spirit and the “feel good factor” still alive and kicking in Woolwich and also to get local business talking, exchanging contacts and keeping the engine of commerce ticking over during this economic downturn.

The room pulsated with energy and the murmur of excitement as attendees chatted about the opportunities within the Woolwich area.

Skills for Growth spokes woman **Joan Burne** has this to say about the event: ‘This was a very good event for us and for the Royal Arsenal, and feedback from local business has been very encouraging. Potentially this could be beginning of such meetings on a regular basis – perhaps even on a larger scale’.

However, the main star for the afternoon was **John Anderson**, the Chairman of Berkeley Homes responsible

for the regeneration programme at the Royal Arsenal. He talked passionately to attendees about the opportunities and growth planned for the future including developments such as a new doctor’s surgery, a children’s nursery, retail outlets, a pub, hotel and a Crossrail station

The day ended with very satisfied entrepreneurs creaking under the weight of business cards, new contacts and future opportunities to explore.

More of the pictures of the event inside...

Question on my lips :



Why the name change?

ANSWER: As we now operate between two sites Bexleyheath and Woolwich we believe the time is right to work under just one name, plus it will be a lot less confusing .

The name change will not disrupt anything in our values or the way we work—but offer a better umbrella name to improve our communications with our employers and partners .



A smile and a welcome Scott Eldred & Sabina Agyei



Joan Burne in full flow—Don't look now, but there's tunic behind you . I can “siling” too... umm sure you can Joan ..we rather you didn't



Can we talk apprentices? Peter Holder talking to Mike Spinks and Neil Beckett of Crane Office supplies

Meeting the neighbour...



Cross section of attendees listening intently to **John Anderson** (Berkeley Homes Chairman)



They can't find me here... **Joan Burne** hiding from **Ashley McCaul** and **John Anderson** at the event



The fish was this big. Really? More tales and networking at the event.



Would that be one or two apprentices? **Tony Babatunde** and **Paula Akpofure** (DLR) posing for picture after a serious negotiating session

"Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential".

"Barack Obama

American president

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives"

*Robert M. Hutchins
Educational philosopher*

"Week" At The Mall

February 24. 2.15p.m

THE MALL BEXLEYHEATH was heaving with people, business people and shoppers

We set our out table, roll –up the banners, the balloons and smile, right next to the flow of traffic, and it did not take long before our strategic location started generating the kind of response celebrities get. And we work the crowd handing out leaflets and answering questions and queries about apprenticeships.



Strike a pose... apprentices wowing and working the crowd at Bexleyheath mall during .

Don't Forget — Apprentices wage increase in August

The minimum weekly earnings for all apprentices in England has now been increased from **£80 to £95** a week which comes into effect this August.

The increase follows a review by the Department of Innovation Universities & Skills and the Department of Children Schools and Families (DIUS and DCSF) of apprentice pay carried out last year.



One for you, Madam? A leaflet and a smile, **Ella Hart** .



Check, check this out.... L to R, **Nikki Castle**, **Ella Hart** and **Ashley Jennings** show off their Apprenticeship Week t-shirts.

"The five essential entrepreneurial skills for success are concentration, discrimination, organization, innovation and communication"

Michael Faraday

(Chemist and Physicist)

March 23rd, 6pm something stirred...

LOOKING fabulous, turning heads and making clients look good...are the trademark of a great hair stylist, and nobody does it better than our Hairdressing department.

However, knowing about the in and out of great hair beauty is not the only ingredient you need in the mix of becoming a hugely successful hairdresser or salon owner — and taking your business to great height and financial independence.

You need good information, like how to get to your goals faster and where to turn to should you need advice. This were some of the reasons behind our Hairdressing department “**Hairdressing into the Future**”. The event

was to aid salon owners and hairdressers alike find the “missing link” they need to help their business succeed especially during this lean economic downturn where everything is as shaky a leaf in autumn.

The turnout to the event was great from hairdressers and salon owners who gave up their evening to learn more on how to arm themselves with the right tools to ride off the recession storm.

The room was humming with great enthusiasm from everyone who attended. **Maria**

Zoumides owner of two salons in (Blackheath and Dartford) kicked things off with warm up games to loosen up attendees. And then told her own...

moving story of how she grew her salon to where it is today with the right help and business support

She also introduced attendees to 356 Hairdressing; a company solely committed to the development of a more professional hair and beauty industry

Also present at the event and giving support and financial advice was **Bexley Business Support, Leanne Carling and Peter Wilson from LA One, Sally Salon Services and Richard Edward and Peter Berry from Thames Innovation centre.**

The event rounded up with networking and tour of the salon late into the night.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and made this evening a success.



Maria Zoumides sharing insights to successful hairdressing business at the event

More pictures at the hair in the future event...



Hello....and welcome by the team



Ashley McCaul (CEO) addressing attendees



You don't say.... engaged attendees soaking it all in



Attendees looking on at the event



Let's talk business — attendees interacting with experts at the hairdressing event



Pass the duchy warm up game at the event

Jade Hollowbread— “You’re Hired”

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THE MERCURY newspaper recently featured a story on one of our apprentice **Jade Hollowbread** (and her employer Tri UK with one of its Directors Imran Umar), under the headline “You’re hired”, The story show case how the appeal for apprentices is now growing and gathering momentum, in the economic downturn. Most employers are now realising the value of having apprentices who can bring the keenness to learn and enthusiasm of youth to their business. Imran Umar has this to say about their own business needs “ We

created this new role in the company and we weren’t quite sure how it would work, so we didn’t want to commit to getting in an experienced, expensive employee. “We got in touch with the apprenticeship scheme and discussed what exactly we needed. We ended up getting Jade in and it’s proved to be fantastic for both parties. She has been great, freeing up a lot of time and resources and even creating a new booking system. At the same time she’s been learning the role and gaining experience.”

Jade’s comments: “It’s been great, I love it. I always have things to do, I feel very confident now about working in an office and I’ve learned a lot”. Even though Jade’s background was in retail she was quick to make the transition and adapt, which goes to show that anything is possible if you work hard enough. Well done Jade!



Jade Hollowbread and Tri Uk Director, Imran Umar

Amazing new discovery and cure for men with grey hair

A NEW FASHION craze for permanently curing and getting rid of unsightly grey hair has recently been uncovered by men of certain age. This discovery meant “grey syndrome”, as it’s commonly known, suffered by most men is now a thing of the past.

Two of our very eager tutors put this wonderful discovery to test, and as

you can see by the smile on their faces they were very pleased with the result. What I am talking about, of course, is having their hair dyed a shade of red for **Comic Relief red nose day**. All good fun for a good causes

Our daredevils of course recommended this change to all men who are experiencing being a bit grey .

Bob (on the left) was so pleased with the result achieved by our own hair-dressing team he volunteered to have his chest hair put through this new amazing process.

It takes a brave man, eh Bob?



I’m pleased with the result shh.. don’t tell my wife. **Bob Groom and Nigel Goddard** dye their hair for the Red nose day

We’d love to hear from you...

Here’s something you don’t want to miss ...

Due to the overwhelming and stomping success of our first ever “Meet the Business Neighbour” event in Feb, we get to do it all over again **this 7th of August**

Right now, we are working feverishly behind the scene and putting the finishing touches to another networking meeting which is looking to even surpass the first.

The event is co-hosted by Thames Clipper, what better way to nestle up and meet other businesses and network than sailing down the river

on a Thames Clipper boat and soak everything in and also enjoy the spectacular view. It promises to be another smouldering, great event — a show stopper in first.

As you can imagine spaces for the event are limited. And priority is on first come first

served basis.

So if you’d like to bag one of these spots for your business you need to act double quick.

Call **Joan Burne** on **0208 317 0165** and ask her to reserve your place.