

LIFE IN LINCOLNSHIRE

News from around the county

PRIDE IN THE JOB

A Lincolnshire builder has won a national accolade for his management of a building site in the county.

Rod Bell, site manager for Horncastle-based Bell and Shinn Developments, beat off competition from 18,000 others to be named best site manager in the small builder category of the NHBC Pride in the Job awards.

Mr Bell, who scooped the award for his management of a new homes site at Maltby Way in Horncastle's Banovallum Gardens, was presented with the award by TV presenter Melissa Porter at a gala ceremony at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel.

With forty years experience in the building trade, Mr Bell (56) said the winning formula was 'team work, quality control and the finished product'. He added: "We're delighted to have won this award. It was a team effort and everyone on the site contributed to it.

"We were judged three times over the year and every aspect of our work had to be completed to a high standard. All builders start with the same materials and we just finished them better than others."

The Pride in the Job awards are

only presented to site managers who demonstrate outstanding levels of skill across thirty-eight areas of site management, including technical expertise, quality control and health and safety.

NHBC's Chief Executive Imtiaz Farookhi said: "To win a Pride in the Job Award at this level takes an exceptional level of hard work and commitment and the winners are to be applauded for their achievement."

GAINSBOROUGH CARE HOME REWARDED

A Gainsborough nursing home has been recognised at a special ceremony in London for achieving the 'Gold Standard' in end of life care. Social campaigner and Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Julia Neuberger presented the awards at a ceremony in London, sponsored by Help the Aged and new charity Omega.

Grosvenor House is one of twenty-five homes to have completed the Gold Standards Framework for Care Homes Training Programme.

The programme, recommended in the Government's End of Life Care Strategy, aims to improve the quality of care for those in the last years of their life, provide better co-ordination with

primary care teams and specialists and reduce avoidable hospital admissions. To qualify for accreditation, care homes must have undertaken the full training programme over nine months, embedded this into their homes for at least six months and then undertaken a rigorous accreditation process 'Going for Gold.'

Grosvenor House manager Barbara Bussey said "The whole team at Grosvenor House are very proud of our achievement, in being one of the first care homes in the country to be fully accredited against this standard. We strive to ensure everybody at Grosvenor House enjoys a very high quality of life, and that it is equally, if not more so, important for people who are in their final years of life. Ensuring that our ethos and practice are fully aligned to the very best understandings and research available will only help to ensure all our residents, their families and friends benefit from the Living Well at Grosvenor House programme."

SUPPORT FOR MILLY

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help have recently



ROD BELL



helped out a seven year old girl called Milly from Cranwell. Suffering from cerebral palsy, Milly is unable to communicate other than through smiles, particularly when her three year old brother Nicholas is in the room.

Andy Evans, Milly's father, was a former Squadron Leader with the RAF and was a member of the Red Arrows Display Team. Aware that SSAFA could help and were already fundraising for a Mytobii eye activated speaking computer, he set about fundraising himself, along with his work colleagues.

Through a combination of grants, fundraising and a substantial SSAFA contribution, enough money was raised for the computer, which is eye activated, allowing the little girl to interact with her family and friends and has greatly improved her quality of life. The technology involved will allow Milly to grow with the aid of her computer, which uses infra red indicators which identify where Milly's eyes are focusing.

Andy and Kate would like to say a big thank you to SSAFA and everyone involved with helping to raise funds for the equipment. "The SSAFA caseworker was a pleasure to work with and it is so reassuring to know that we are being looked after by SSAFA."

RED-NOSED ADVENTURERS RAISE MONEY FOR COMIC RELIEF

Personnel based at RAF Cranwell have been getting into the spirit of the Comic Relief Red Nose Day during an expedition to the North Island of New Zealand.

The group, from the Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre at RAF Cranwell have been wearing the Comic Relief red noses and 'deely boppers' during various adventurous challenges, which have included a twenty-three kilometre trek along the Tongoriro Crossing, mountain biking along fifty-one kilometres of the 42 Traverse and a sixty-six kilometre canoe expedition along the Whanganui River.

The expedition leader, Squadron Leader Cath Gillespie said, "We wanted to add a fundraising element to the trip and Comic Relief is a worthy cause and one that we could promote whilst doing our activities."

To raise funds for Comic Relief each member of the party will donate money for every kilogram of weight lost (or gained!) upon the conclusion of the trip. They were all weighed on the day they left the UK and will be weighed upon their return.

The group have a number of activities to complete including caving, climbing and further hill walking before returning to the UK.

GLOBAL ECONOMICS DOWN SOUTH

There is widespread concern, globally, regarding survival over the next few years. The penguin population in the Falkland Islands shares a concern with their human counterparts, but, for very different reasons.

Many young penguins are suffering from malnutrition due to a shortage of Krill. Krill is a tiny crustacean that apparently provides the sustenance for the young penguin juveniles who rely on their parents 'bringing back', in more ways than one, the ready meals from a days 'fishing'.

The Falkland Islanders have much the same problem; catches are down along with the markets for wool and tourism.

Speaking to audiences on foreign territory is nothing new to Lincolnshire Chartered Financial Planner Terence O'Halloran. The several day trip out and back to Port Stanley and also to West Falkland, allowed him to address both audiences in his own inimitable style; hopefully with a more responsive reaction from the human recipient to the advice given.

Judging by the attentive posture of the Gentoo penguins at the Bluff Cove colony, however, perhaps both audiences received equal encouragement from the talks.



THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLY



PICTURED IN FRONT OF MOUNT NGAURUHOE (MOUNT DOOM FROM THE LORD OF THE RINGS) ON THE TONGORIRO CROSSING ARE, FROM LEFT, SQN LDR IAIN LAMB, SAC RACHAEL BROUGHTON, FLT LT PENNY BRADY, CPL DAVE TIPLER AND SQN LDR CATH GILLESPIE



TERRY AND FRIENDS

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ANIMAL MAGIC

Lincs Ark, the Lincolnshire based voluntary animal welfare group held their annual Well Being Day at the Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa.

The event was extremely well attended and the record number of visitors had the chance to browse the many stalls on show and take advantage of the various therapy taster sessions available on the day.

With nearly thirty five stands selling everything from herbal remedies to pure organic soaps and creams and therapists on site giving demonstrations of the benefits of hypnotherapy to aromatherapy, reiki to reflexology, a highly informative and relaxing day was enjoyed by all.

The event raised much needed monies to help continue the good work of Lincs Ark in helping neglected and unwanted animals across Lincolnshire. Future events include Party in the Ark at Swineshead on Sunday 21st June an Open Garden event a week later on Sunday 28th June at Langrick Grange near Boston and an Open Garden at Kirkby on Bain on 23

August 2-5pm.

If you want to know more about these events or Lincs Ark and what they do, or feel you might be able to help them in any way call 07880716121.

LINCOLN CONTACT LENS SPECIALISTS WINS TOP AWARD

David Burghardt Vision Care near Lincoln scooped a top national title at the prestigious 2009 Optician Awards recently.

The Nettleham practice was named Contact Lens Practice of the Year during a glitzy Hollywood-style ceremony at Birmingham's National Motorcycle Museum hosted by stand-up comedian Jason Manford.

The team won the accolade thanks to its innovative and dedicated approach to providing the best possible contact lens care to patients.

Practice owner and contact lens specialist David Burghardt said: "It's fantastic to have been named Contact Lens Practice of the Year and to be recognised for all our hard work.

"We continually strive to offer our patients a personalised contact lens service using the very latest technology and the judges have recognised this.

"Our commitment to understanding contact lenses and what our patients want from them is at the very core of what we do."

"It's rewarding for myself and the team to be honoured in this way and we're delighted to have also made the shortlist in three other categories – more than any other eye care practitioners in the country."

David Burghardt, a fellow of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), was also shortlisted for Optometrist of the Year while the practice was nominated for Technology Practice of the Year and Individualised Lens Practice of the Year.

The award organisers maintained that the number and standard of entrants this year was extremely high.

In total fifteen awards were up for grabs, recognising and rewarding both small and large practices in the

TIME WELL SPENT

This month the National Trust is launching a national advertising campaign highlighting the fact that a visit to any of its 300 properties is always 'time well spent'. When all we're hearing about is the doom and gloom of those losing their jobs and the financial meltdown, it has become clear that simple pleasures, like visiting an enchanting castle or relaxing in a glorious garden, are more important than ever – and hence 'time well spent'.

VIEW FROM TATTERSHALL CASTLE



PHOTO KINDLY SUPPLIED BY PETER MCGUIRE



field of optometry and eye care.

This is not the first time David Burghardt Vision Care has clinched the top spot at a highly acclaimed industry ceremony.

In 2006 the practice was awarded the Rodenstock Impression ILT Lens Practice of the Year and was also shortlisted in two categories at last year's Optician Awards: Independent Practice of the Year and Software Practice of the Year.

GRAND DESIGNS

Channel 4 is currently working on a new, prime time, property show. The programme comes from the creators of Grand Designs and Property Ladder and is set to be a huge success. They are looking for people that are about to renovate or refurbish their homes, but are dealing with problems such as damp, dry rot, cracked walls etc. Are you currently in this situation? If so call Cecily Ancliffe on 0207 8557450.

WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT JAM AND JERUSALEM!

Lincolnshire's newest Women's Institute Group has just launched...

If you are young at heart (or just young - their age limits are 14 - 114), they want to welcome you to their group. They feel that a

balanced mix of ages will benefit all concerned and can learn from each other. It's a place where ladies of EVERY generation can go to make friends and enjoy themselves. Every month they offer the chance to learn and also enhance your social life; but above all - have lots of fun. They will arrange 'extra curricular' activities too so there's something for everyone.

They run beside the Lincolnshire South Federation and are, of course, part of the National Women's Institute. With their help they can become involved in county and country issues. Their voices will be heard!

They are called DIY WI because they formed the group themselves (nothing to do with putting up shelves - although if anyone is interested they could probably arrange a meeting to teach you!). Visit www.granthamdiywi.com for more information.

LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES SELECTED BY GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER NEW DIPLOMA

Following a rigorous bid review process, two Lincolnshire-based consortia have been selected to deliver the brand new Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure. Bids

were submitted by more than 280 consortia across the country and, of these, 149 have been successful.

The development of the new Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure has been led by SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning, and takes into account the needs of employers in this sector. As such, the course has been designed to help learners acquire an understanding of the sport and active leisure industry and the skills its employers most value from prospective team members.

The consortium process is a new innovation introduced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to ensure that Diplomas delivered are challenging and of high quality - after all a Level 3 Diploma can be worth 490 UCAS points. It is not expected that any one institution will be able to deliver the Diploma in its entirety.

Says Stephen Studd, Group Chief Executive at SkillsActive: "I would like to congratulate the Lincolnshire consortia on being selected to deliver the Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure. The development of this new Diploma has been ongoing for two years and we are very excited to finally know how many schools and colleges will be offering it in September 2010"

ARE YOU RENOVATING A PROPERTY?



VISION CARE OWNER DAVID BURGHARDT AND PRACTICE MANAGER EMMA AUSTIN COLLECT THEIR AWARD FOR CONTACT LENS PRACTICE OF THE YEAR AT THE 2009 OPTICIAN AWARDS. PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT): COMEDIAN JASON MANFORD, CIBA VISION'S ROGER LOPEZ (SPONSOR OF THE AWARD), DAVID BURGHARDT, EMMA AUSTIN AND OPTICIAN EDITOR CHRIS BENNETT.