



Nuprint
director
Leigh
Wilbraham.

School CDs give voice to new profile

NEWCASTLE printer Nuprint has won an order to print images on more than 12,000 CDs.

The Parkhouse Industrial Estate business will be producing the discs for the Lichfield Cathedral School Girl's Choir.

The choral CD is being released in time for Christmas and the school hopes it will boost its profile as well as bring enjoyment to people over the festive period.

Nuprint is working with the school to completely revamp its marketing material. Nuprint director Leigh Wilbraham said: "It is the first time we have branched out into the music business."

"The Lichfield Cathedral School Girls' Choir is fabulous and while we are not expecting a Christmas number one we are proud to be part of an enterprise which will give much enjoyment over the festive period and beyond."

"Independent schools need to market themselves perhaps now more than ever in these difficult economic times."

"We are working with schools across the county to provide them with quality marketing material."

Fall in livestock price leads to new butcher's shop



Farmer Sean Landy has opened a butcher's shop, Audley Country Meats, where he sells his own produce and that of other local farmers.

Picture: Steve Bould

Farmer takes new role, as a butcher!

DAVID JOHNSON
BUSINESS EDITOR

FARMER Sean Landy is reinventing himself as a successful retailer in the wake of volatile livestock prices and the foot and mouth crisis.

The 33-year-old is increasing margins after he opened butcher's shop Audley Country Meats this month.

The Church Street outlet sells meat from his own farm as well as other local producers.

Like many farm diversification projects, it was the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001 and the resultant plummeting animal prices that first prompted Mr Landy to consider changing the way he did business. Then, three years ago, he found the perfect site in Audley for his butchers – only for the deal to fall through for legal reasons.

When a property two doors away came on the market this summer, he snapped it up.

Mr Landy said: "I decided I wasn't going to work for nothing so I started looking into setting up a shop."

"We opened last Saturday and the response was phenomenal. They were queuing down the street.

"The people are fantastic. I've never met people so warm and friendly. "Before we opened, we had a lot of local businesses coming in and wishing us luck."

Farming is an unlikely profession for a Stokie from Heron Cross whose father worked on the railways. But Mr Landy had always wanted to be involved in agriculture and now he has 120 ewes with lambs as well as beef cattle on land he rents near Nantwich.

The highest quality 50 per cent of his meat is now sold through Audley Country Meats with the rest being sold through livestock markets for products like mince.

Other stock in the shop comes from local and regional producers known to Mr Landy.

He has taken on 29-year-old butcher Gareth Simm, and he is convinced there is a market for locally-produced meat.

He said: "Gareth is a great butcher and I know my product."

"I can tell you the breed of animal the lamb, pork or beef came from, I can tell you which farm it came from and usually I can tell you its date of birth and who its mother was!"

"We use a local slaughterhouse so

there are no long drives for the animals. That lowers stress levels which in turn has a direct effect on the quality of meat produced.

"Meat from stressed animals has a higher PH, which makes it tough. "If you keep the PH down, you get much more tender meat."

He added: "I really enjoy dealing with the public. It's a big change and in a way it's like reinventing yourself."

"A lot of farmers come across as being so negative. They rely so much on markets and other people to get them a fair price, but sometimes you have to change the way you do things because it's always the middle man that takes the most."

Ernie Moulton, who produces Audley Community News, welcomed the new outlet.

He said: "We are happy for any kind of new business in the village."

"With the economic climate as it is businesses are closing all the time and there are shops that have closed in Audley."

"It's always nice to see outlets coming in."

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Sunday papers

The Observer

More than one million banking customers will come a step closer this week to learning whether they will be able to claim back charges for unauthorised overdrafts.

On Wednesday, the supreme court will hand down the appeal ruling on a case between the Office of Fair Trading and seven banks and one building society on whether the fees charged for unauthorised borrowing can be tested under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

Christian Aid, one of the world's most important anti-poverty campaign groups, is set to cut 20 per cent of its UK workforce as part of urgent savings prompted by a downturn in donations and the fall in the value of sterling. The organisation, formed in the aftermath of the Second World War to help dispossessed European refugees, will axe up to 90 staff. Christian Aid employs 800 worldwide with 450 in the UK.

The Independent on Sunday

Global stock markets are likely to come under selling pressure this week as fears of a correction in equity prices intensify.

London's benchmark FTSE 100 index shed 2.5 per cent from Tuesday last week, while the S&P 500, America's index of its biggest companies, slumped 1.6 per cent in the past four days.

The FTSE dipped on Friday amid fears that Britain's biggest travel firms, Thomas Cook and Tui, may have to tap investors for more cash with rights issues.

The campaign for Heathrow Hub, a proposed transport interchange at the airport, is set to gather pace next month.

Arup, the engineer that first proposed the hub, is understood to be meeting representatives from interested parties in early December.

Arup is believed to be gathering support ahead of publishing refreshed plans later in the month.

The Sunday Times

FIVE former directors of MG Rover, the failed Midlands car maker, are to receive an early Christmas present with an £11 million-plus payout from the wreckage of the firm.

Their windfall will bring to £42 million the total they have extracted from the collapsed company in one of Britain's biggest business scandals.

The five — John Towers, Nick Stephenson, John Edwards, Peter Beale and Kevin Howe — will share the payout from the winding up of MGR Capital, a car finance operation kept separate from the rest of the group.

BRITISH banks are drawing up plans to stop accepting cheques and instead demand payment by plastic or electronic transfer.

Consumer groups and businesses have attacked the proposals, raising the prospect of a "save the cheque" campaign to protect the 300-year-old method of payment.


The Sunday Telegraph

FEMALE board directors in the FTSE 350 are being paid half as much as their male counterparts, new research has found.

The average female board director took home £178,246 in salary, bonuses, benefits and pension contributions in 2008-09, while the average male director received £357,358.

The Reward Technology Forum, which compiled the study, claimed part of the explanation was the majority of women on company boards were non-executive directors who are paid less than executives.


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- Within busy residential suburb
- Undergone complete refurb
- Tkgs £5,000pw + P/point £700pw
- WNB £850pw - 1 bed accom

LH £50,000 + sav Ref: G23738V

HALLMARK CARDS, GIFTS & THORNTONS CHOCS - STAFFS - Well presented in prime high street loc in busy market town tkgs approx £4,000pw - accts April 2009 show sales of £155,693pa - GP 49% - ANP of £32,614pa for wrkg owner - L/Up prems - LH £69,000 + sav (Ref: BC23707V)

SANDWICH, PIZZA & KEBAB TAKEAWAY - HANLEY - STOKE ON TRENT - Very busy popular business situated in high profile corner street loc next to Central Forest Park & the Stoke Skate Plaza - takings approx £4,500pw - GP 72% - LH £73,000 + sav + vac (C25049V)

PREMIER CONVENIENCE STORE - STOKE ON TRENT - Recently refitted store in busy parade location with free prkg - current tkgs £7,000pw + Paypoint £600pw - 2 bed sc accommodation - FH £195,000 + sav or LH £70,000 + sav (Ref: G23778V)

SANDWICH BAR & BAKERY - STOKE ON TRENT - Well established business prominently situated in a busy High Street location - sales accts March 2009 £128,501pa - GP 65% - ANP of £51,728pa for wrkg cple - L/UP prems - LH £47,500 + sav (Ref: K23793V)

OFF-LICENCE - STOKE ON TRENT - Main road location in a mainly residential area with commercial units opposite - well est & takings average of £4,223pw - Lock-Up prems - LH £27,500 + sav (Ref: OL22615V)

MOTOR FACTORS - E. DERBYS - Retirement sale of profitable long est business - turnover accts 2008 £351,285pa @ 34% GP - ANP of £41,793pa. 5 day wk - new Lease or Re-locatable. Price £69,000 + sav + vac (Ref: P21683V)

CITY CENTRE CHINESE RESTAURANT - STAFFS - Fully licensed restaurant with approx 90 - 100 covers. Currently caters for evening diners only - stated tkgs approx £3,900pw - suit other cuisines - retirement sale - LH £65,000 + sav (Ref: R23784V)

FREEHOLD CTN WITH PAYZONE - STOKE ON TRENT - Nicely presented & well est in busy resid suburb - weekly tkgs 2009 approx £3,824pw + P/Zone £3,206pw - WNB approx £1,400pw - sales accts Oct 2008 £185,487pa - GP 16% - FH £105,000 + sav (Ref: T22596V)

EMPTY COMMERCIAL PREMISES/INVESTMENT - KIDSGROVE STAFFS - Previously a Fancy Dress Hire now Closed - semi detached property with easy parking to front & rear - 1 bed flat previously used as storage - FH £205,000 - (Ref: W23776V)

01782 711022
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For a full list of businesses available visit www.emfgroup.com

Downturn fails to slow charity donations

DESPITE the recession, more than half of small firms in the UK are providing support to charities, according to new research.

The study, commissioned by the Barclays Take One Small Step Campaign, found more than two million businesses across the country helping good causes through donations, volunteering and pro bono work.

Kathy Leo, Barclays local business area manager for Staffordshire, said: "The recession provided a powerful incentive to take an axe to the non-essentials – but that

hasn't happened with support for charities.

"The research shows that over half of local businesses see their charity work as a responsibility to the community, not a result of boom time generosity, and they can't and won't walk away from it."

"The amount of money donated by local businesses has remained pretty constant, whether the business feels it's recovering from the recession or not."

"One of the industries with the toughest image, construction, is also one of the most generous, with around 61 per cent helping local charities."