

BUSINESS



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Lawyer is on track to win top accolade

BRADFORD and Leeds law firm Gordons has been shortlisted for two categories in The Law Society excellence awards.



Partner Victoria Davey is a finalist in the Woman Lawyer of the Year category and the firm has also been shortlisted for the Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion prize for its apprenticeship programme. The most senior woman in Gordons' 170-year history, Victoria is a member of the firm's three-partner executive board, as well as being one of Britain's most experienced intervention lawyers. Gordons' apprenticeship scheme provides bright school-leavers entry into a legal career now includes 11 youngsters. The winner will be announced in October.

IN BRIEF

National finalist

BRADFORD graduate Rifat Iqbal is a national finalist in the legal category of the 2015 Asian Professional Awards. Rifat, who is from Bradford, works as a legal officer with Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. She graduated from the University of Bradford in accountancy and law in 2001 and completed postgraduate diplomas in law at Leeds Metropolitan and joined Rochdale Council in 2012 where she is a senior litigation solicitor.

BRADFORD AND YORKS SHARES

Aired	19.75	0.00
Astrazeneca	4,247.50	-26.00
Bba Aviation	304.80	-0.40
Filtronic	8.625	-1.125
Findel	196.75	-1.50
Leeds Group	36.50	0.00
Marshalls	332.70	-2.30
Morrisons	177.80	+1.80
Pace	344.90	-1.80
Persimmon	2,105.00	+30.00
Provident Fin	2,997.00	+26.00
Renold	76.50	0.00
Rolls-Royce	797.50	-0.50
Slingsby	337.50	0.00

Jobs created with a new beauty spa

EIGHT jobs are being created at a new health and beauty spa being launched by owners who have returned to West Yorkshire after living in Australia.

Halloran, 35, will open their business next month in a Grade 2 listed building in Station Lane, Birkenshaw. Manor House Spa will employ five full-time and three part-time staff.

The spa includes a hair-dressing salon, four treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy pool and infrared sauna along with a lounge area.

Francesca, 34, and Ryan, a former nurse and electrician, have launched to business to enable them to work from home and have more time with their two small children. They also to create local employment opportunities

Soaring sales and HQ move for firm

High demand for the software made by company which tracks pupil progress

By Chris Holland
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AN educational software company launched by a former Bradford teacher is moving to a larger base in the district as demand for its products grows.

Formative Data Systems, which supplies online data tracking and assessment packages for schools and nurseries, has seen sales soar by 220 per cent over the past couple of months.

Since the company was founded in 2012 by former deputy head teacher Scott Parkin, it has achieved continued growth both in the UK and internationally with turnover expected to reach £500,000 by 2016.

The business is moving from Hipperholme to an 880 sq ft office at The Dyehouse, on the West 26 Business Park at Cleckheaton.

New Zealand-born Scott created Early to Primary Essence software that tracks the progress and development of students from birth to 11 years.

Through strategic partnerships the system is now used in Spain, UAE, Dubai, Malaysia and Thailand and in 147 pre-school settings and more than 300 schools in the UK.

The company is also working exclusively with Hillingdon Council to



MOVE: Michelle Parkin (director), Sarah Lewthwaite, Michelle Foreman, Scott Parkin, Francesca Holmes, Dawn Whitaker and Nathan Channonon

provide early years foundation stage assessments.

The products are also being used by 17 clusters of maintained and academy schools in West Yorkshire.

Formative Data Systems has also seen growth in the independent schools sector through a partnership with leading school information system developer, Double First Ltd, which has introduced and distributed the software systems to the fee-paying nursery, prep and prep schools worldwide.

The company is working to align its system with Early Excellence, the UK's leading early years and training provider, to help clients produce Reception class baseline report data which becomes mandatory next month.

Formative Data Systems has ex-

panded its sales and training team with three new consultants and now has an eight-strong team.

New sales and training consultants include Sarah Lewthwaite, from Ilkley, a former Bradford-based early years teacher, who participated in the pilot scheme to develop Early to Primary Essence.

Also appointed are Michelle Foreman, from Bradford, a former commercial manager and Francesca Holmes, from Bradford, a former senior education consultant with Kelly Services UK Ltd.

Scott Parkin said "As a young business we are delighted with the progress we are making to introduce our pioneering software packages to nurseries and schools in the UK and overseas."

Experts to deliver advice at discussion

RETAIL guru Kate Hardcastle will be the keynote speaker at next month's Thrive Yorkshire in Ilkley.

The award-winning West Yorkshire-born business-woman will be joined by five other Yorkshire-based speakers at an event staged by Ilkley Business Forum.

Julia Forrester, IBF treasurer, said: "It will be a full day of learning. We want business owners to come away feeling inspired to grow their business."

Kate Hardcastle, who owns Insight With Passion, will line up alongside speakers including positive impact coach, Deborah Ogden and Chris Allen, managing partner of Blacks Solicitors.

Opening the event is Ilkley Brewery co-founder and former managing director Chris Ives.

The conference at The Craiglands Hotel on September 24, will also include "mini surgeries" at stands.

Contact info@thriveyorkshire.co.uk or visit thriveyorkshire.co.uk for details.

Anniversary giveaways

TYRE fitting group ATS Euromaster, which has two centres in Bradford, is marking its 50th anniversary by giving away 50,000 gifts to customers making a purchase this month.

The group, which has 345 service centres, including Thornton Road and Wharfedale Road, nationally employs more than 3,500 people and is offering vouchers, free MOT's, meals out and track days. David Brunton, from ATS Euromaster on Wharfedale Road, said: "Turning 50 is quite a milestone and one which we felt needed celebrating."

SHARES BY JOEL DUNGATE, OF REDMAYNE-BENTLEY STOCKBROKERS

MARKETS drifted lower last week, and the FTSE 100 witnessed some heavy selling last Wednesday falling back below the 6600 level, as fears mounted about a slowdown in China's economic growth. Following disappointing economic data, and in order to boost Chinese exports, the People's Bank of China devalued the Yuan to its lowest rate against the US Dollar in four years.

The latest jobs data revealed that UK unemployment increased by 25,000 in the April to June period to 1.85m, with evidence that earnings growth is slowing. However, there are 354,000 more people in work than a year ago.

The US has also released jobs data

recently. The latest non-farm payrolls report showed that the US economy added 215,000 jobs in July, resulting in a fall in the unemployment rate to a 7-year low of 5.3 per cent. Furthermore, the latest figures from the Commerce Department showed that US retail sales rebounded in July, increasing by 0.6 per cent. This was ahead of forecasts of a 0.5 per cent rise increasing the likelihood that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will raise interest rates, possibly as early as September.

Last week, the European Commission confirmed that a deal had been agreed "in principle" between Greece and its creditors. The bailout deal, worth €85bn, was

accepted by the Greek government early last Friday and includes the need for tax rises and spending cuts. Without the deal Greece is unlikely to make its €3bn debt repayment to the European Central Bank, due on 20th August. Surprisingly, a flash figure showed that the Greek economy grew 0.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year. Growth figures for the rest of the EuroZone were a little mixed. The German economy grew by 0.4 per cent in the April to June quarter, up from 0.3 per cent in the first quarter. However, France witnessed zero growth in the period. In company news, supermarket retailer, Morrisons, saw sales fall by 0.1 per cent to £2.76bn in the 12

weeks to 19th July, according to Kantar Worldpanel. The researchers also revealed that the smallest of the so-called 'big four' supermarkets also witnessed a decline in its market share from 11 per cent to 10.9 per cent. Once again, discount retailers Aldi and Lidl performed well with sales up 17 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

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