West Lothian Business CONNECTIONS ONLINE

A BUSINESS UPDATE FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL JUNE/JULY 2010

Welcome to West Lothian's monthly round up of local business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource for business - www.westlothian.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

www.westlothian.com/news

RENEWABLE ENERGY development company, the Banks Group, has secured the planning consent to build a £70 million waste to energy facility using Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology at the Pond Green Energy Park near Bathgate.

TWO NEW FIRMS have moved into Deans Industrial Estate Livingston. Grant Westfield Limited are moving into Dunlop Square on a ten year lease, while Batt Cables Plc, have purchased Unit 1 Chalmers Square for £765,000.

THE NEW TaylorMade performance centre at Kingsfield Golf Centre, Linlithgow has been opened by BBC Scotland's Dougie Donnelly.

IN THE NEWS

www.westlothian.com/news

LIVINGSTON FIRM Touch Bionics were presented with the Queen's Award for Enterprise by the Lord- Lieutenant, Mrs Isobel Brydie, MBE on Friday 25 June. The firm was recognised for its achievements in the development and commercial success of the i-LIMB Bionic Hand.

BROXBURN-BASED Ian Macleod Distillers said profits after tax reached £2.2m in the latest financial year as a result of increased volume and margin. Turnover soared 18% to £26m thanks to increased sales to export markets, especially in the Middle and Far East.

LIVINGSTON'S STAR NET GEOMATICS has been awarded the prestigious Business Innovation Award at the Global Telecom Business Awards.

WEST LOTHIAN based Whisky firm Glenmorangie are celebrating the Kosher certification of their premier single malt from the Orthodox Union (OU).

LIVINGSTON MAN Alasdair Day has recreated the Tweeddale Blend, an old matured blended Scotch whisky, last produced at the start of World War 2 that was previously blended by his great-grandfather.

THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY is looking for firms to compete for the title of Scotland's Best Workplace.

A NEW MILITARY STYLE FITNESS PROGRAM called BurnIt Bootcamps is expanding across West Lothian. The local firm has been running fitness Bootcamps for businesses such as HMRC and Quintiles for some time now and due to high demand from the public have decided to launch evening classes.

LIVINGSTON BASED pearl jewellery designer and retailer, Orchira, is launching its range of 700 exquisite European jewellery designs for the U.S. and Caribbean markets.

EAST CALDER Taxi firm Calder Cabs have been recognised for their Environmental initiatives by the Scottish Green List 2010.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE is launching new course to help prepare school pupils for a career in engineering and renewable energy. The course covers key areas of renewable energy, such as wind turbines and solar panels (electrical generation and water heating energy) as well as more traditional energy sources such as oil and gas.

AWARD WINNING hi-tech manufacturing university spin-out company OptoScribe has begun the pursuit of its £3million turnover target by moving into the Alba Innovation Centre.

West Lothian Council

ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

WEST LOTHIAN still has one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in Scotland. The recently released mid-year population estimates for June 2009 show that the area's population now stands at 171,040, an increase of 1,540 over the June 2008 figure.

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for May 2010 (latest data released June 2010) is 4.6% (4,953 – a decrease of 88 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.2%) and Great Britain (3.9%) rates.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

www.westlothian.com/events

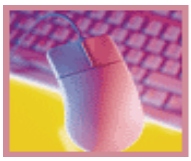
ALL MAJOR CONTRACTS (including OJEU tenders) currently advertised by West Lothian Council and other public sector organisations can be found on the ***Public Contracts Scotland*** website at www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk. The following recently published tenders have closing dates in July or August.

- Repair and maintenance of building installations
- Occupational Health Service
- Supply & Delivery of uPVC Windows, Composite Fibreglass Doors & Composite Fibreglass Fire Doors

FREE BUSINESS PROCUREMENT CLINICS will be run on the first Thursday of every month, starting on 1 July. A procurement specialist will be available at the Enterprise Centre in Livingston from 2 – 4 pm to answer all your questions about tendering and procurement. Call 01506 777400 to book your time.

SEStran is now inviting applications for Sustainable and Active Travel Grants of between £500 and £5,000. Visit http://www.sestran.gov.uk for more information

BUSINESS LEARNING



BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian is offering a number of FREE workshops in Bathgate and Livingston in July:

- **Networking Skills** on 15 July in Livingston.
- **Trading Online** on 15 July in Bathgate.
- **Customer Care** on 22 July in Bathgate.
- **Basic Bookkeeping** on 22 July in Livingston.
- **Making your Business More Profitable** on 29 July in Bathgate.

START UP workshops for people contemplating starting a new business also run in Livingston each month. For more information call 01506 777 400.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events

thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite is holding a business to business breakfast networking at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on 6 July from 8am – 10am.
www.thesmallbusinessclub.co.uk

ACCELERATE YOUR SUCCESS from The People Incubator is happening at Deer Park Golf and Country Club in Livingston on Tuesday 13 July between 7pm and 10pm. Join likeminded others when you're ready to achieve more of what you want in your life, business or organisation.
http://ays13jul10.eventbrite.com/

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