

BUSINESS TIMES



Proud to serve local businesses
Page 44



The many facets of education
Pages 24-31



Raising a glass to celebrate 15 years
Pages 36-38

Royal recognition



INDEPENDENT publisher Igloo Books has received the UK's most prestigious award for business performance - The Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category. The Sywell-based company has experienced good growth since its inception in 2003, and the award reflects the consistent increase in business internationally, with compound growth of over 50 per cent over the past four years. The company has recruited 34 new employees in the past two years and turnover grew 45 per cent in 2010/11.

Pictured above, Managing Director John Styring and Sales Director Briony Britten.

© Business Times

Venue enjoys golden moment

HIGHGATE House won the Gold title for Best Business Tourism Establishment in the country, at the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence.

This follows the Northamptonshire conference and meeting venue winning gold within the

East Midlands region for the past two years.

The Enjoy England Awards for Excellence celebrate the very best the country has to offer. The award is not only important for Highgate House as a venue, but also has a great impact on highlighting

Northamptonshire as a key destination for business tourism.

Highgate House is part of Sundial Group which operates three venues across the UK.

For further information about Sundial Group visit www.sundialgroup.com

County is big attraction

NEW figures reveal that the value of the Northamptonshire visitor economy increased by £34.65 million to £904.51 million during 2010, a four per cent increase on the previous year.

The research, commissioned by East Midlands Tourism, East Midlands Development Agency's tourism arm, shows that the accommodation sector grew in value by £2.71 million with food and drink showing a rise of £2.32 million.

The biggest visitor economy increase within Northamptonshire was achieved in the Kettering Borough Council district.

Revenue increased by six per cent to £113.07 million, while five other areas, Corby, Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire all showed four per cent increases.

Northamptonshire's central location has long made it a major centre for conferences and exhibitions, while the British Grand Prix at Silverstone attracts more than 100,000 spectators each year.

Almost 20 million visitors come to Northamptonshire each year, spending some £760

million into the local economy, and supporting over 13,000 jobs.

Explore Northamptonshire is the destination management agency formed in 2004 to promote Northamptonshire as a first choice destination for tourists and visitors.

Its main objective is to coordinate and deliver the marketing activity of the county, promoting Northamptonshire to UK and overseas leisure and business tourism markets.

Mike Carr, Executive Director

Business Services, East Midlands Development Agency said: "It is encouraging to see that the region's visitor economy is still reporting growth, and that the accommodation sector, in particular, made gains in 2010."

"Going forward, the industry is now well placed to take advantage of future opportunities such as the London 2012 Olympic Games."

The research was conducted by Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM).

Moorings shortlisted

THE transformation of a disused and overgrown boating lake in Northampton's Becket's Park into a modern mooring basin has been shortlisted for an award from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

The Northampton Mooring Basin is one of 20 from the East Midlands to make the next stage.

The moorings were opened last month for temporary and residential moorings. Over 80

moorings have been created, and a facilities building is currently under construction and is due to be completed in the summer.

Chris Garden, Director of Regeneration at West Northamptonshire Development Corporation said: "The moorings are a sign of things to come for Northampton's waterside, which is a key part of a multi-million pound regeneration programme for Northampton town centre."

AWARD-WINNING:
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
COST MANAGEMENT

- Commercial
- Health
- Industrial
- Housing
- Sports & Leisure
- Education

We're all about detail.

GSSARCHITECTURE

T 01536 513165
www.gssarchitecture.com



For a competitive contract hire quotation on any Volvo or Kia call

Bells Motor Group
08444 707636
(local call rate applies)

sales@bellsmotorgroup.co.uk www.bellsmotorgroup.co.uk

