

Business

Café franchise mixes books and cake

NEW MILTON book lovers will be able to enjoy an upmarket afternoon tea experience while perusing a selection of novels and anthologies at Beatons Tearooms in Station Road.

The new franchise is part of a national chain inspired by the elegance of royal photographer and costume designer Sir Cecil Beaton and has opened at Bursledon House which was previously home to the Hearing and Mobility Centre.

Operated by Angela Thorn, the tearoom will provide full table service and offer over thirty loose-leaf teas, regional coffee blends, homemade cakes and light food served in bespoke Villeroÿ & Boch china as well as a carefully curated selection of books for sale.

Angela said: “Beatons Tearooms promises to deliver a stylish take on quintessential afternoon tea.”

She said she was inspired to launch the business as a tribute to her late mother who was a great lover of afternoon tea and began investigating taking on a franchise after visiting Beatons in Blandford Forum with her partner Tony.

Angela explained she was also attracted to the literary side of the chain, saying: “Distinguishing itself from others, Beatons uses verse as part of their brand and hosts both local author book signings and poetry events.

“A poem honouring every town in which a new Beatons opens, is commissioned from

house poet and best-selling author Liz Darcy Jones.”

Patrick Duffy, CEO and founder of the group, said: “With such a passionate and genuinely caring tearooms owner as Angela, I have no doubt Beatons New Milton will be both valued and loved by its residents in a very short space of time.”

Beatons has an ethos of embedding itself in the communities in which it has cafés, and supporting a different local charity each year and Angela added that celebrations to mark the launch of the new premises would be raising money for her charity for 2018, Helping Old People New Milton, known as HOPE.

For more details visit www.beatonstearooms.co.uk



Management award for family-run holiday park

A FAMILY-RUN holiday park company has won recognition for the work of its senior management team.

Shorefield Holidays, based at Milford, picked up the Solent 250 Management Team of the Year Award at a dinner held at Southampton's Harbour Hotel.

The team was praised for continually striving to “wow its customers” and improve the quality of service on offer.

Presenting the award, a spokesman from sponsor HSBC said: “The senior management team has never avoided tackling and making big bold decisions regarding the future direction of the company.

“They champion change and work tirelessly to develop strong relationships with their staff, encouraging an open and honest dialogue with every employee regardless of grade or tenure.”

The spokesperson added that “every member of staff is valued and encouraged to understand how they can make a difference to the success of the business”.

The Solent awards celebrate the top 250 private independent companies in the region in an annual list sponsored by HSBC, business adviser RSM, and law firm Irwin Mitchell.

Shorefield finance director Sara Bertin said: “This is a tremendous achievement for our team. We decided to change the way we run the company about five years ago when we started working with Ruth Badger, who specialises in our field.

“Everyone has worked really hard to make the company what it is today. We are all invested in its future and this has led to an increase in staff retention and profitability”

Shorefield Holidays is celebrating its 60th year in business and now operates eight parks across Hampshire and Dorset.

For more information visit www.shorefield.co.uk

HSBC deputy area director Andy Farmer (left), with Shorefield staff Kaz Mortimer, Sara Bertin, Paula Curtis and David Goldsmith.



IT firm charging up for new apprenticeship scheme

A LYMINGTON-based IT firm that specialises in helping companies move computer data across the world at high speed is set to launch a new apprenticeship scheme.

Bridgeworks, which has its headquarters at Ampress Park, will work with Bournemouth and Poole College to deliver a new industry-based training programme, as an alternative to the traditional university route.

Managing director David Trossell said: “We will be offering one apprenticeship this year and hopefully if it goes well, will be in a position to offer another one or two next year.”

“With universities the way they are many young people are anxious about the prospect of having a £45,000 burden around their neck. We hope that this will enable young people still to have a career in the computer industry through an alternative route.”

Founded in Verwood in 1982, Bridgeworks specialises in WAN data acceleration, which helps firms like IBM and Dell move large quantities of digital data around the world at very high speed.

It currently works with Brockenhurst College, Southampton Solent University, the University of Kent and other

learning institutions to offer training opportunities and work placements to students.

David said: “We are looking for young people with a real interest in computing and software, they could be studying A Levels in computing, maths or science or undertaking a BTEC in computer studies.

“When they come to us they would not necessarily need a vast depth of knowledge – just a passion for computing. We can expose them to a huge amount of information.”

As well as working with Brockenhurst College, Bridgeworks sponsors its annual STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) awards that celebrate the achievements of young people studying for A-levels and BTECs.

Brockenhurst College assistant principal Ann Johnson said: “Our STEM awards event was really popular with students, parents and teachers. We are so grateful to our sponsors for recognising the hard work and success of all our STEM students.

“Success in these courses open the doors to university, apprenticeships and employment and a career in vital industries for the Solent area and beyond.”

She continued: “Studying

STEM courses at Brockenhurst helps to develop mathematical and problem-solving skills alongside personal qualities of maturity. We are thrilled that students have been able to develop their skills in all these areas and to have their success recognised.”

David added: “As a lifelong advocate of the apprenticeship scheme of the 1980s and 1990s I am really excited about the opportunity our software development technician apprenticeship could create for the right young person.

“It is a great way to allow young people to say in continuous education while they are gaining invaluable industry experience and also earning a wage.”

“With our new apprenticeship scheme, my team at Bridgeworks hopes to give our apprentices a running-start to a successful and innovating software development career. So, we look forward to developing long-term relationships with local colleges, universities and their students.”

For more information visit www.4bridgeworks.com or to apply email apprentice@4bridgeworks.com

David (left) is pictured with Brockenhurst College students at the recent STEM awards.

Forest couple’s pub portfolio adds a fifth to the chain

THE couple behind a string of popular New Forest pubs has recently reopened The Royal Oak at Downton with a focus on providing freshly cooked homemade food.

Debbie and Duane Lewis, who already run The New Forest Inn at Emery Down, the Trusty Servant at Minstead, The Mortimer Arms at Ower and another Royal Oak pub at Hilltop, Beaulieu, will employ around 12 full and part-time staff at the refurbished Downton pub.

The building dates back to the 18th Century when it was a coach house, known for serving smugglers. General manager Darren Lewis said the pub had received a good reception since the reopening and added: “I have been really pleasantly surprised by how busy we have been very quickly and the feedback from customers has been excellent.”

The team aim to provide a friendly, first-class service and fresh homemade local dishes, putting a twist on pub classics to ensure the menu is appealing and exciting.

Cheese lovers will also be well catered for with a trolley offering a range of locally-sourced



premium varieties from the UK and Europe.

The Royal Oak’s staff also includes head chef Jake Henry, who previously worked at The New Forest Inn, where he was known for his imaginative menu. A number of special events are planned for the summer including barbecues and hog roasts as well as a two-day cider and beer festival in July featuring live music.

Debbie said: “Downton is such a beautiful part of the New Forest, and we are looking forward to meeting all the locals. We are eager to share our passion for outstanding service and deliciously fresh home cooked dishes with the regulars and visitors.”

For more information visit www.theroyaloakdownton.com



Airport boss ready to retire for ‘fresh pair of hands’

AIRPORT managing director Paul Knight is to retire from his position at Bournemouth in September.

After joining the aviation base as a firefighter in 1981, Paul (61) rose through the ranks to take on a number of senior positions before he was appointed MD in 2012.

Announcing his decision to staff, he said: “Following over 37 years of working at Bournemouth Airport, I have decided that now is the right time to hand over to a fresh pair of hands.

“I came to this decision in early 2017 but as a result of the Regional and City Airports (RCA) acquisition process, which was extensive, and the need to have stability while the sale and transition took place, I decided to wait until this was completed.”

He continued: “I am confident now that the transition process will be completed by mid-2018 allowing for the business to move forward with confidence and security.

“I will always be an ambassador for Bournemouth Airport and its greatest advocate as I

am sure that, under RCA ownership, the airport has a great future.”

RCA chief executive Andrew Bell said: “Paul has had a long and distinguished career at Bournemouth Airport and we will be very sorry to see him go. It is no secret that we wished him to stay in his role, but we fully understand his decision and wish him a long and happy retirement.”

Paul said one of his proudest moments was the arrival of Concorde to mark the official opening of the extended runway in 1996.

The supersonic aircraft was to visit Bournemouth on 12 further occasions until it was taken out of service in 2003.

He said: “Bournemouth Airport has changed out of all recognition during my 37 years here. No day has been the same and I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed such a challenging and stimulating career.

“Above all, though, I have enjoyed working with a fantastic team. It’s like a family here and I’ll miss their friendship, enthusiasm and professionalism.”

Tender opportunities at NFDC procurement day

BUSINESSES wanting to know how they can apply for New Forest District Council tenders have been urged to attend a learning event.

The Meet Procurement showcase will teach attendees about the processes involved and give them the opportunity to network with other firms and officers from the authority.

It will be hosted by the council at its Lyndhurst-based Appletree Court offices for two hours from 1.30pm on Thursday 26th April. It is free but spaces need to be booked in advance.

A spokesman said: “New For-

Connect over breakfast at Ringwood School

A BREAKFAST meeting is to be held at Ringwood School on Wednesday to allow local business people to connect.

Rob Jelley from Business Growth Strategies Ltd will be attending as a guest speaker to discuss effective networking. The event will take place from 8am to 9.30am at the school’s conference centre where complimentary tea and coffee will be served along with a continental breakfast.

To book a place email naomi.beale@ringwood.hants.sch.uk or call 01425 475000.

Meercat launches largest monohull

WORKBOAT manufacturer Meercat has launched its newest and most robust vessel to date.

The twin-screw M18 monohull’s completion comes as the Hythe-based firm’s order book continues to grow following a management buy-out in 2017 to create an independent company employing 16 people.

Meercat managing director Jason Coltman said: “The M18 is a cost-effective multi-purpose workboat designed for the bigger projects such as port services, construction works, dredging support and offshore maintenance works.

“She was specifically designed to carry large amounts of cargo – up to 85 tonnes – and our best pulling capacity to date of 12 tonnes, as well as offering superb all-round performance.”

Jason added: “The M18 is the largest in our monohull range but we can build bespoke vessels up to 24 metres or tailor existing workboats to suit the exact requirements of clients in our purpose-built workshops.”

Construction of the M18 took 10 months at the Hythe Marine Park site. The vessel is designed to act as an extremely stable working platform for a multitude of tasks and can operate to

a range of 60 nautical miles from a safe haven.

Other current orders include a £500,000 oil-spill-response vessel for Europe, a 22-metre landing craft for a Scottish fish farm and an 18-metre utility vessel for the Shetland Islands.

Meercat boats are used for dive and dredging support, cable and pipe-laying, civil engineering support, moorings and pilings, port service, floating crane operation, fish farming, dry and liquid cargo carrying, oil spill response, wind farm support and towage.

For more information see www.meercatboats.com



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