

SCIENCE MINISTER PRAISES THE HEATH AS BUSINESS MODEL FOR UK

On 19 May SOG were delighted to host Science and Innovation Minister Ian Pearson who applauded The Heath Business and Technical Park as a model for similar science ventures across the UK.

During the visit the Minister praised the Heath's success in creating a cluster of scientific excellence and said that the location's achievements deserved to be brought to the attention of a wider audience.

He said: "As a government we are committed to world-class science and innovation and examples like this are exactly the sort of thing we need to be encouraging right up and down the UK." SOG has recently created its so-called 'Fusion Project' concept, which is a blueprint to demonstrate how ailing sites can be regenerated or large organisations can downsize into a smaller footprint. A key ingredient of the blueprint is the protection of skilled workforces, where rather than seeing these skills lost, the model encourages this highly specialist expertise to be retained and made available to the wider business community.

SOG's Managing Director, Peter Cook added: "Science and technology is vital to the future prosperity of the UK economy and it is essential that we protect this unique skill base, which is precisely what the Fusion Project sets out to do. Replicating The Heath's success could create a new UK scientific platform which would be a magnet for other research and development specialists from across the world."

During the visit The Minister met managers and staff of SOG Ltd and visited representatives from Heath resident organisations MiCap PLC, GB Plange UK Ltd and ACAL Energy. He also presented Paul Angell from SOG with his NVQ apprenticeship completion certificate.

Summarising the visit Mr Pearson said: "I have been extremely impressed by the diversity of businesses here at the Heath but also the Heath is a concept of how you can cluster together scientific excellence and you are getting businesses interacting with each other."



WIRED IT SERVICES WINS IT CONTRACT WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

The United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO) in Switzerland has been given a helping hand by Heath based computer services firm, Wired IT Services.

Staff at Wired IT Services were delighted to learn they really are helping to save the world when they discovered one of their on-line clients is managing a major international project for WHO in Geneva.

Staff at Wired IT Services are leaders in reducing the complexity of information technology in the workplace. Through their portfolio of Wired IT Services™, they deliver fully managed IT solutions with a single point of contact, offering flexibility, reliability and safety to their clients at affordable rates.

For more information contact Wired IT Services on 0845 094 1446 or check out the website on www.wireditservices.net.

Have You Got a Story for CONNECT?

Within a business community the size of the Heath, there is always something going on ... business expansions, realising that vital deal, receiving that prestigious award, raising funds for charity... the list goes on!

If you have a story to tell, please contact:
Lesley Lunt on 01928 51 5988 (x.5988) or
E-mail: lesley.lunt@sog.ltd.uk

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www.theheath.com



Summer
2008



Connect

News and Reviews from
The Heath Business & Technical Park

Welcome to our Summer Issue of CONNECT

Much has happened at the Heath since our Christmas edition of Connect. If you listen to the economic news it has been a difficult start to the year for businesses. However, SOG are delighted to see that companies are continuing to grow their business at the Heath, additional staff are being recruited and new companies are moving to site. The car parks are a good indicator of this. Also, already there is interest in our new build development opportunity. Plenty of good news to share!

SOG itself has been busy welcoming 2 high profile visitors, launching its new build development opportunity, managing the on-going refurbishment programme and has enjoyed working with new and existing customers as their businesses develop.

In May SOG was thrilled to host Ian Pearson, UK Minister for Science and Innovation. The minister was shown round the Heath and introduced to some of our laboratory based businesses, giving him the opportunity to hear first-hand about the fascinating range of science being carried out in the R&T building. The businesses were also able to describe the benefits of being able to network and trade, not only amongst themselves but also with the non-science businesses located at the Heath.

Earlier in April we were also pleased that Steven Norris made his fourth visit to the Heath to launch our exciting new build development opportunity. Details of the proposals and launch event are overleaf. We truly appreciate the support and encouragement Steven gives to SOG, not only for what is happening at the Heath but also with our safety behavioural training programme Deal With It®.

Integral with the new build developments is the work we are doing to refurbish the existing facilities. The two main reception areas, main corridors, link-bridge and conference centre areas have all been completed and a programme of work for the external elevations is in hand. This is an ever-rolling programme that will continue and we recognise there is still more to do. We will keep you informed via our Residents Update Brochure - Edition 2 in September!

SOG welcomes our new businesses, particularly those that are relocating from outside the region. We believe SOG is unique with its on-site capability of adapting space to suit the needs of businesses in a short period of time, particularly in the science laboratory sectors. SOG's approach is to adapt space to suit the needs of the business and not for the business to adapt its operation to suit the needs of the space. We believe this to be an important feature in today's rapidly changing market.

On the energy front, utilities consumption continues to be monitored and reduced where possible and SOG plans to install further power saving equipment during the year. The new building management system unfortunately proved more problematic to bring on-line than had been expected and we thank you for your patience during this period.

All toilets have now been fitted with PIR systems to control lighting, ventilation and urinal flushing. However, we remain surprised by the amount of power usage out of normal working hours and a campaign to address this is planned for the autumn.

The business networking breakfasts 1sTuesday, run by the Halton Chamber of Commerce in the Foodini are proving to be a great success, with over 50 businesses regularly attending, both from the Heath and the surrounding areas. The monthly training network sessions Biz Net are also proving popular for developing personal skills, like networking and asking for money!!

Finally, as we approach the summer season all of us at SOG hope that you will have the opportunity to enjoy a well-earned holiday break.

Peter Cook, Managing Director, SOG Ltd

www.theheath.com

Welcome to New Businesses

A warm welcome is extended to the following businesses who have recently signed licences to operate their businesses at the Heath.

- **Biostain Ready Reagents**
- **Cablesolve Solutions**
- **Colt Group Ltd**
- **Curve Consultancy Services**
- **Danoco Ltd**
- **ECO Fillers**
- **Element Communications and Design Ltd**
- **Macrovision**
- **Merseyside and Cheshire GTP Consortium**
- **Metrohm UK Ltd**
- **Prayon (UK) Ltd**
- **Premier NW Construction and Maintenance**
- **Richard Lunt Photography**
- **Town and Country Travel**

If you would like further information about any of our new or existing companies please visit:
www.theheath.com Directory

Thinking of expanding your business?

If so please contact Lesley Lunt (x.5988) to discuss your requirements and find out about our latest Summer offers

Providing 'Customer Care' to You Our Residents

As the number of businesses and residents at the Heath continue to grow Mike and I are having to be quick on our feet to ensure we are satisfying the needs of you our residents.

This not only means being there to help solve problems, but also means listening to what you have to say and being proactive in providing information and organising events.

Over the last few months a number of initiatives and improvements have been implemented and here is a reminder of just a few:

The 'Residents Zone' on www.theheath.com is now being used by more of our residents and is regularly being updated with more useful features. Copies of site bulletins can also be found here.

In view of the rising fuel prices, we are in the process of setting up an area within the Zone for people wishing to share the costs of travelling to and from work.

We have also set up an area in the Zone for Business Managers, to make them aware of possible local funding and awards that may be of interest.

The Heath continues to host sessions for The National Blood Collection Service. Unfortunately donor numbers have reduced. Please look out for the next session and give up 15 minutes of your time to help save lives!

We recently welcomed Steve Brice, a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee who came along to promote the Queen's Award for Enterprise. A prestigious award for any business.

The Personal Development Training/Networking event (BIZ-NET) is proving very popular. Sessions are tailored to topics of specific interest to residents. Look out for future sessions that will be advertised in the bulletin.

Due to residents requests we have introduced another Car Valeting Service on to the Heath. Residents can now arrange for their car to be valeted at the Heath on Car Park 4, Mon -> Fri. Details are on the Residents Zone (or contact Gill Watkins, R&T Reception, Ext: 3455).

SOG/The Heath has hosted 3 work experience students from local schools and thanks to some of our resident businesses, with whom students have spent time, they have been able to gain an insight into other types of businesses.

And finally on the 'Heath Duck Front' we are again having a successful season with our first fledglings ready to leave the nest! Thank you for your continued help in raising our infants.

Over the next couple of months, Customer Care aims to make even more improvements to its service and support in order that The Heath Business & Technical Park is not just a place of work but is a great place to work!

Pam Myers and Mike Featherstone (x.1132/5945)

AUDIT COMMISSION WIN 2008 HEATH GOLF CHALLENGE CUP EVENT!

Congratulations to Julian Farmer, Clive Portman, Chris Whittingham and Graham Parry from Audit Commission's 'A Team' who are this years winners of the Heath's golf challenge cup event!

The event was held at Portal Golf and Country Club in Tarporley on Wednesday 18th June. Commencing at midday, with a 2-tee start, 17 teams set out at 8-minute intervals to complete the superb 18 holes of the premier course. Teams of four, playing Stableford competition were challenged to win points for their team, individually and for nearest the pin. There was also a free prize draw for those not lucky enough at golf on the day!

The Heath Challenge Cup will be engraved with the name of the team winners and will shortly be displayed in the Heath restaurant concourse.

A great day was had by all so SOG would like to say a very big thank you to all the teams who entered this years challenge and we look forward to announcing details of next years event, scheduled for Wednesday 17th June.

The 'A Team'



Heath engineers develop new continuous reactor for the pharmaceutical and chemical industries

A new continuous reactor for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries is being launched on to the market by AM Technology, a new resident at the Heath.

Chemical engineer Robert Ashe and electrical instrument engineer David Morris have developed a novel continuous chemical reactor system for use in research and manufacturing environments. Referred to as 'Coflore' the modular system sets new standards for continuous reactors in terms of flexibility, performance, practicality and cost.

www.amtechuk.com

EXCITING NEW PLANS FOR HEATH EXPANSION

An exciting multi-million-pound expansion plan, set to generate 1,000 new jobs was unveiled at the Heath on Friday 25 April.

Former Government Minister and specialist property writer Steven Norris gave a key note speech to an invited audience of Heath resident organisations, property industry experts and government agencies at a special launch event, held in The Willows.

Steven gave a ringing endorsement of the Heath in his speech. He praised the SOG team who have created one of the UK's most successful independent business parks – without a penny of government funding.

The launch unveiled SOG's plans to add 180,000 sq.ft of new offices and laboratories to the existing site and increase the workforce from 2,000 to around 3,000 in the next 5 years. Under the new proposals, eight separate plots will be made available, offering companies a unique opportunity to create bespoke accommodation.

Architects and SOG directors are keen to minimise the new development's impact on the environment. In response to energy and climate concerns, the buildings are designed to keep energy use down and secure a high "green score" by using locally sourced and recycled materials where possible. (Buildings are being designed to achieve a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of "very good".

A detailed planning application is now being submitted and the first new building is expected to be ready for occupation as soon as next Spring.

**For further information please contact:
Lesley Lunt (x.5988) or Tina Irons (x.5977)**

Steven Norris and Peter Cook



Company Expansions at the Heath

SOG are delighted to see businesses are continuing to grow at the Heath. Our good wishes go to the following companies who have expanded their business recently:

Acal Energy - Axial Systems - Bodycote - Chemicals NW - Creative Pulse - Food Northwest
Gemini Biomedical - Laser Special Projects - LGC - Manchester Organics - Polymorph
Sirius Geotechnical - Virosafe - WebAspx