

Archers hoping for a Miss



Model professional: Miss Universe hopeful Sara Pender

A tele-sales executive for Scottish independent retailer Archers Sleepcentre will be forced to reduce her hours with the company after making it through

to the final of Miss Universe UK 2014.

Sara Pender from Glasgow has worked for Archers for the past year, but as a finalist in

the competition will now be splitting her time between work and undertaking a number of voluntary activities for charity. First amongst these is a planned climb of Ben Nevis in May, which she hopes will help her raise £1000 for Strongbones Children's Charitable Trust.

If successful in her quest for the Miss Universe UK 2014 title at the grand final in Cardiff on 21 June, Sara will be the first Scottish representative to represent the UK in the competition's history.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.archerssleepcentre.co.uk

Independent retailer suffers curious break-in

Doig's of Forfar, an independent business based in the Angus county town of Forfar, has fallen victim to a curious break-in.

Storeowner Kenneth Doig arrived at the store he has been operating for more than 30 years on the morning of Saturday 15 February to discover evidence of forced entry.

Talking to local newspaper The Dundee Evening Telegraph, Mr Doig recounted: "It had been a terrible night, and I saw footprints in the snow and that the back door was damaged and the lock was taken off."

However, upon further investigation by the 62-year old retailer, the mystery deepened.

"I wasn't sure what to expect but I was relieved that there wasn't a lot of damage. They'd strewn some papers about, and scattered some pillows on the floor but that was really it."

Despite the perpetrator shutting off the power supply for the premises no stock appeared to have been taken and the company safe remained untouched. The only damage found was that done to the door during the forced entry.

"I thought that was strange. There was a cash float and they didn't even take that. I just can't figure it out. They knew what to do to take the lock off the door. They were up the stairs. Whether they had a sleep or something I don't know," Mr Doig added.

Since the occurrence Mr Doig has spoken to a number of other Forfar residents following a spate of break-ins in the town. "It is frustrating as a business owner, because you're wondering what's going to happen next. We're going to look at stepping up our security."

The store offers a wide range of products including ranges from prominent suppliers such as Silentsnight, Sherborne Upholstery and Caxton.

Hampshire indie sets April expansion date

Heritage independent retail business Vale Furnishers has announced the impending launch of its second outlet this April at the former Mac&Mac Interiors showroom in Farnham.

The near 60-year old company, led by current custodian and managing director Mark Chandler, will mark the opening with the introduction of new designs from fresh suppliers such as Cattelan Italia, Porada and Tonon.

Vale Furnishers has traded from its branch in Ash Vale, Aldershot since 1960, housing products from renowned industry names that include Calligaris, Skovby, Ercol and G Plan Upholstery.

The new 20,000sq ft premises – located on the East Street stretch of Farnham – became available following the demise of its former owner at the turn of the year.

A company spokesperson said: "Vale Furnishers will be expanding into the desirable Surrey market town of Farnham. We will be located in the former Mac&Mac Interiors showroom in East Street, Farnham; after the contemporary furnishings company went into administration at the end of 2013.

"The Vale Furnishers Farnham showroom is a fantastic opportunity to showcase a wider variety of cutting-edge designs from current manufacturers, as well as new brands."

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.valefurnishers.co.uk

Retailer adds voice to community space debate

Croydon-based retailer House of Reeves has added its voice to other members of the local community in regards to the proposed future of Reeves Corner, the former site of its iconic store.

The land formerly occupied by the store, which gained global attention in 2011 when it was burnt down during the London riots, has remained unused despite control of the site being passed to Croydon Council.

A six-week process is currently underway to create a 'master plan' as to how best to use the land for the benefit of the community and local businesses. However, while it had originally been earmarked for a community space at the request of local residents and traders, there now seems to be suggestions that it could be used to house another shop or business.

Since control was passed over to the council, hoardings erected following the destruction of the premises were removed and concrete planters were added to the space. However, public access to the space remains prohibited.

Adding his voice to the debate, Trevor Reeves, the owner of the former store who passed control of the land over to the council last year, told local publication The Croydon Advertiser: "After those first two years when we put the hoardings up, we went to the council and said, 'Look, we have spent two years doing all this for the area but now it needs to change'. We really think we have done our bit."

"I'm not an urban planner but it would be nice to have some green space to sit on it. But it has to be something that will benefit local business," Mr Reeves added.

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www.houseofreeves.com

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www.doigsfurnitureforfar.co.uk

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