

Managing director Alan Fraser said: "Whilst we regret this announcement, it will allow us to ensure our business is the right size and shape to support activity in what is an extremely difficult economic environment for the aviation industry."

Chitty site sold

A FIRM fined for allowing potentially harmful waste into drains near its Guildford abattoir has sold the site.

Chitty Food Group handed control of its abattoir and boning plant on the Slyfield Industrial Estate to Anglo Beef Processors (ABP) in a deal completed on Tuesday. ABP, which operates in Scotland and the North, said the move would allow it to work with Surrey farmers and Home Counties producers.

Jobs at the abattoir, which currently employs around 100 workers, are unaffected.

Tom Kirwan, managing director of ABP, said the deal was part of plans to widen its beef operations. It follows the purchase of an abattoir in Sturminster Newton in Dorset earlier this year.

Chitty was prosecuted by Thames Water in August and ordered to pay £33,321 after admitting 10 offences of causing discharge of trade and sewage effluent into controlled waters. It also pleaded guilty to failure to inform about its sewage discharge. The breaches were between 2007 and 2008.

MORE than 500 apprenticeship places will be offered to young people in Surrey over the next three years after a new training association was formed.

They will be opened in sectors including business administration and law, and in retail, health and public services to help support smaller companies in the county.

The South East Apprenticeship Company (SEAC) has been formed by training provider KEITS to work in partnership with companies

association (ATA) – the first of its kind outside London – to assist Surrey employers in taking on greater numbers of apprentices.

KEITS won £7 million of government funding to set up the new association.

Director of contracts Jamie Stevenson said the scheme in Surrey would act as a pilot and could be extended throughout the South East, depending on its success.

"This is a great opportunity to allow businesses to engage

this in turn will increase the number of apprenticeship places available to young people and will support targets of increasing the number of young people working towards an apprenticeship from one in 20 to one in five.

"This will ensure young people have the required skills for today's and tomorrow's business needs and enabling young people to be economically active."

Godalming charity Skillway was made an example as an

volunteers at its headquarters at the Nightingale Cemetery in Farncombe give up their time to teach skills such as woodwork, metalwork, engineering, stone engraving, leatherwork and creative art.

Students can achieve certificates that lead to an NVQ.

The new association will focus on opportunities for 16 to 18 year olds and will also offer apprenticeships in engineering and manufacturing, active leisure and education.

Youngsters taking part will

they return to the ATA and are reassigned.

Rachel McKellar, South East regional director for the National Apprenticeship Service, said she was excited about the opportunity to support the new model in Surrey.

"It will allow more businesses to become engaged in apprenticeships, enabling them to develop a skilled workforce for the future," she added.

"It will offer new opportunities for young people."

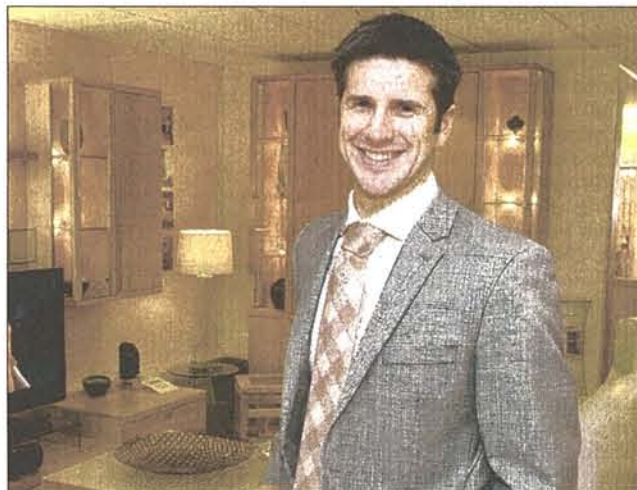
Furniture company celebrates 50 years

A FURNITURE company in Ash Vale will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year after being passed down through three family generations.

Vale Furnishers was established in 1960 by local couple Roy and Violet Chandler, who opened a 1,000sqft showroom in the then newly built The Parade on Wharf Road.

The company ran successfully for more than three decades, and was then handed down to the Chandler's son, Alan, who joined the company at the age of just 16.

Almost five decades after the business began as a small-time local furnishing company, the Vale Furnishers has grown to fill a 36,000sqft store, under the helm of Alan's son Mark Chandler.



Mark Chandler, Vale Furnishers, Ash Vale.

Mark, who joined the company 10 years ago when he was 19, has worked his

has been with Vale Furnishers for 20 years.

The loyalty of the staff at the company, which has won numerous business awards including Furniture Retailer of the year, is something Mark believes has been vital to its ongoing success.

"That's probably one of the biggest reasons we are so successful," he said.

"What we do is build up relationships with our customers and none of our staff earn commission, so they are not in it for a quick sale."

Despite the fact that the company has grown tremendously over the past 50 years, Mark explained that he felt Vale Furnishers still had that family orientated small business ethos behind it.

"Although we have obviously

grown, we have always tried to maintain small business principles," he said.

"If we are not building and expanding, were are putting money into training so that all our staff know the products well and know what they are talking about and feel confident when it comes to selling a product."

Mark said he hoped the company would continue to grow but has ruled out opening another store.

"We will continue to fine tune the business and make sure our customers are still getting what they want from us," he added.

"It's a continual evolution,"

If you would like more information about Vale Furnishers visit the website at www.valefurnishers.co.uk.

The Surrey Technology Centre
Flexible licence
The Surrey Research Park

Sari and Supper evening goes down a treat

GUESTS enjoyed an evening of traditional Indian Saris, dancing and henna detailing at a charity meal for local business minds.

The Sari and Supper evening

"We thought this would be a nice way to introduce people to the culture. We tried to create a unique experience while raising money for charity."



Tracker funds c investment, and sure needs to l over the mid to lo I believe simple planning steps i outweighing the

I started the P Portfolio (PFP) a 2008. PFP invest had to have grown over one, 12 months.

Past fund per not a reliable future performer

However, as: changing make-i has been interest ing changing inv tors and the indi

In November about 2,500 unit only 20 could consistent posi

By January 20 42 funds and in 50; when 74% of invested in Fixed

In August 2009 159 funds, Fixed at 43% and the t ing PFP fund ove was an equity b 25.11%.

On October 19 791 funds and i formers over 12 Emerging Mar with more than 8

Assessing the by applying qu from independe we get 88 Qualit consistent posi This Quality PI Equity Content, Interest, and 2%

The PFP Equit 30% UK, 16% E 11% Far East ar national. This sp allocation means months the PFI and over three growth of 13.04%

The FTSE ind