

Food for thought

Michelin-starred chef Sat Bains talks about his recipe for success **P2&3**



Bird's eye view

The £250k renovation project for squatting sparrows **P6**



Couple's intent: To let you camp with 'a clear conscience'

County pair invest £750k to create an eco-friendly site for holidaymakers

BY PAUL WHYATT

whyatt@derbytelegraph.co.uk

AN eco-friendly campsite which will encourage visitors to be considerate towards the environment is due to open in Derbyshire.

The new 50-pitch site in Bradley near Ashbourne, will open in April.

It includes an eco-friendly amenity block that uses solar power and has toilets that flush with recycled water.

The 11-acre centre, off the A517 Belper Road, is the latest eco-park to be opened by the Camping and Caravanning Club, which is striving to convert all its 109 sites across the country into environmentally-friendly plots.

Gabriel Hutchings, co-franchisee of the Bradley business, said there was strong demand from people wanting to go on eco-friendly camping trips.

He said: "There are many people who want to go on holiday without messing up the environment. Our camping site will enable people to go away while maintaining a clear conscience."

The site, which has room for 40 tents, will have a sewer treatment system whereby solids are intercepted from the flush before the water is sterilized in a biochemical reaction.

There will also be four 250-litre tanks storing hot water obtained through using solar



GOING GREEN: Gabriel Hutchings checks the solar panels at the Bradley caravan site and, below, with Denise Ingrem. M1120209C-3/2

camp site for the past 12 years and Mr Hutchings and co-franchisee Denise Ingrem have invested £750,000 on the eco-project since they purchased the site 15 months ago.

Visitors will be allowed to take their dogs and go on walks around private meadows, complete with two ponds to attract wildlife.

Hedges have been allowed to grow to beyond 20 feet to accommodate birds.

Work on the site began in November and is due to be completed by April 2.

However, poor weather conditions have left construction work behind schedule and Mr Hutchings conceded that it may be late April when work is finished.

He said: "If the weather stays good, we'll do it but if we have very wet weather again, we will be pushed."

The pair aim to open between mid-February and November each year, with prices ranging from £8 to £16 a night for a plot.

power.

Mr Hutchings said: "The idea is that there will be no need for gas, although we will have back-up supplies."

He added that visitors had an important role to play in keeping the park green.

"People tend to visit supermarkets before going camping and stock up on food that they end up throwing away," Mr Hutchings said.

"We're going to be encouraging people to use nearby shops instead and only buy what they will definitely use."

Recycling facilities will also be provided on the site.

The land has been used as a



On her marks for 10k

KAVITA Oberoi, star of Channel 4's The Secret Millionaire, is putting her best foot forward by taking part in the Derby 10K to raise money for charity.

The managing director of Oberoi Consulting, on Pride Park, visited specialist store The Derby Runner, which is providing her with running shoes for the event.

Mrs Oberoi hopes to raise at least £2,000 for the Sisters With Voices programme, which offers support to women and girls at risk of unemployment or dropping out of school.

Derbyshire charity Sporting Futures is organising the race, which is expected to attract

3,500 competitors. Sponsored by Derbyshire Building Society, it will take place on Sunday, April 19, starting and finishing at Pride Park Stadium.

Alongside the 10k race and a corporate challenge team event, there is a 3k family fun run.

Those interested in sponsoring Mrs Oberoi - pictured with Rob Jeffries, of The Derby Runner - should contact Sue Hunt on 01332 224251 or e-mail sue.hunt@oberoi-consulting.com.

Picture: Hannah Brackenbury HB130209C-3

Share price falls for all of our top local firms

IT was a bad week on the markets for the top 10 local listed companies, with all of them seeing their share price fall.

Household goods manufacturer Unilever, which has a factory at Burton, was the best of a bad bunch, with its value dropping 1.3%.

But American banking giant Citigroup, the parent company of Pride Park-based internet bank Egg, was the worst performer by some margin as it saw its share price fall by 45% on the Dow Jones.

Derby train-maker Bombardier's value fell by 18.8% on the Frankfurt exchange and the shares of Burton-based pub company Punch Taverns continued their downward trend, dropping by 10%.

Last week, Somercotes chocolate-maker Thorntons reported a 39% slump in half-year pre-tax profits from £11.9m to £7.3m.

But the firm enjoyed a slight rise in overall sales, of 1.3%.

However, this was not enough to prevent the company's share price from falling by 5.5%.

- 1 UNILEVER:** Down from £14.09 to £13.90, a fall of 19p or 1.3%.
- 2 TOYOTA:** Down from £23.22 to £22.85, a fall of 37p or 1.6%.
- 3 RECKITT BENCKISER:** Down from £27.93 to £27.16, a fall of 77p or 2.8%.
- 4 MARSTONS:** Down from £1.18 to £1.13, a fall of 5p or 4.2%.
- 5 THORNTONS:** Down from 59p to 55.75p, a fall of 3.25p or 5.5%.
- 6 ROLLS-ROYCE:** Down from £321.25 to £299, a fall of 22.25p or 6.9%.
- 7 COORS:** Down from £26.99 to £24.75, a fall of £2.24 or 8.3%.
- 8 PUNCH TAVERNS:** Down from 40p to 36p, a fall of 4p or 10%.
- 9 BOMBARDIER:** Down from £1.92 to £1.56, a fall of 36p or 18.8%.
- 10 CITIGROUP (parent company to Egg):** Down from £2.45 to £1.34, a fall of £1.11 or 45%.

Stock market prices taken at 11am last Monday compared with 11am yesterday.

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Company backs apprenticeship campaign

DERBYSHIRE companies are being urged to consider the value of taking on apprentices as part of National Apprenticeship Week, which began yesterday. All employers in Derbyshire

are being targeted in the second campaign of its kind.

One company backing the campaign is Gardner Aerospace, of Ilkeston, which has its own apprenticeship programme.

The firm's human resources manager, Samantha Lawrence, said: "We invested in an apprenticeship programme several years ago and since doing so, Gardner has gone from strength to strength."