

BUSINESS NEWS

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BUSINESS

in brief

Heathrow's growth good

THE Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group, which includes Swindon, is delighted with the Government's decision to expand Heathrow and build a third runway and sixth terminal.

Claire Prosser, the policy executive for the chamber said: "We are pleased the Government has acknowledged the importance that Heathrow's expansion has to the economy in the area and UK plc as a whole.

"If the expansion was not given the go-ahead it would have negatively impacted global inward investment, with the UK losing out to rival European countries."

Payment delay

MORE than 2,850 businesses in south west England have delayed paying more than £46m of tax after contacting HMRC's Business Payment Support Service in the last six weeks.

The new service, announced at the Pre-Budget Report, gives businesses the opportunity to pay all their HMRC taxes, including PAYE, National Insurance Contributions and VAT through payment timetables which they can afford.

SHARE PRICES

UK STOCKS	(Price in £)	
Barclays	0.97	0.01
BP	4.96	-0.03
BT	1.06	0.00
HSBC	5.46	-0.09
Marks & Spencer	2.32	-0.01
Sainsburys	3.30	0.03
WH Smiths	3.48	0.10
Vodafone	1.32	-0.01
EUROPEAN STOCKS		
BMW	17.04	0.09
RWE	56.58	-0.74
Zurich Financial	130.67	0.85
US STOCK		
Intel	9.70	-0.17

■ supplied by Redmayne Bentley of Abingdon

EXCHANGE RATES

One British pound exchanges for:
US Dollar 1.43
Australian Dollar 2.14
Canadian Dollar 1.74
Chinese Yuan 9.78
Euro 1.08
Hong Kong Dollar 11.09
Indian Rupee 69.96
Japanese Yen 127.87
New Zealand Dollar 2.70
South African Rand 14.15
Figures from January 28, 2009

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GOOD TEAM Liz Jenkins, the general manager of The Inn at Fossebridge with new head chef Damien Dupuis.

Second French chef set to work magic

DAMIEN Dupuis is the new head chef of the Inn at Fossebridge, near Cirencester. He is 34 and comes from France.

He succeeds another Frenchman, Laurent Guillery, who has returned home.

Damien and Liz Jenkins, a graduate of the Pru Leith cookery school and daughter of inn owner Robert Jenkins, are determined to

further develop menus with new dishes to help them in their pursuit of key awards for the kitchen team.

"Our greatest wish is to achieve recognition for the superb food created by our team and we are renowned as a major Cotswolds destination," Liz said.

Damien and his brother who cooks at a restaurant in France,

have become head chefs at the same time.

They studied food, preparation and creative, for six years at a cookery school in France.

Both achieved distinctions in their craft but Damien wanted to move to England to improve his English and further broaden his experience.

Since then he has worked in a

variety of restaurants, from the ill-fated Fishworks, to Calcot Manor, the Halfway Inn and Bibury Court Hotel.

He eventually gained the position of deputy head chef at The Inn at Fossebridge.

He loves the work of French chef Bocuse, Gordon Ramsay and James Martin and outside work he is rugby mad.

SMARTCARD PAYS OFF FOR HEALTHY PUPILS

by Leigh Robinson

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TWO secondary schools in Wiltshire are using cashless smartcard technology as part of their initiative to encourage pupils to eat healthy school lunches.

Following successful trials both Sheldon School, in Chippenham, and St Augustine's Catholic College, in Trowbridge, are now using the sQuid eMoney smartcard system.

Wiltshire County Council was awarded funding from the Department For Children, Schools And Families to help schools with catering projects.

And both of the schools were al-

Schools try hi-tech plan

located money to help install the cashless system.

Pupils are issued with a personalised smartcard containing the sQuid eMoney purse, which parents top-up online ready for use.

Pupils pay for school meals using the card at a reader which is integrated with the till in the canteen.

The system also offers a discreet method of administering free school meals, as individual cards can be automatically topped up by the school administrator.

Sarah King, the school meals strategy co-ordinator for Wiltshire

County Council, said: "Both schools have worked hard with sQuid to get the pilot cashless catering projects off the ground.

"Cashless transactions are quicker to process, and school meals uptake has increased.

"Schools must meet DCFS nutritional standards, so it is really encouraging to see more pupils eating school lunches."

Sheldon's catering is supplied by Sodexo and the catering manager, Nicole Owen, said: "Paying with sQuid is much faster at the till than using cash and the children love

having their own card."

sQuidcard is extending the school cashless programme following the success of the pilot schemes.

Adam Smith, the managing director of sQuidcard, said: "This is an ideal payment system for schools, since it is low-cost, easy to implement and ideal for young people."

sQuidcard is a subsidiary of Nucleus Limited, a brand, internet and venturing business.

It is the alternative to the debit and credit card networks for sub £10 tap and go transactions.

It is a market forecast to grow rapidly, replacing some of the £200bn cash transactions made each year in the UK.