

## Rise in new apprentices in our area

**ECONOMY:** Yorkshire and the Humber is leading the way in hiring new apprentices. New apprenticeships in engineering and advanced manufacturing have increased by more than 85 per cent in the past two years, new figures reveal.

Every area of England has seen a significant rise in new apprentices in the past two years, with Yorkshire and the Humber (109 per cent) one of the areas leading the way.

The latest figures released by Semta, the sector skills council for science, engineering and advanced manufacturing, show most of the new starts have been at intermediate level (142 per cent), with a smaller rise (23 per cent) in the number of advanced and higher level apprentices.

Semta chief executive Sarah Sillars said while the figures showed the ambition was on track, there was no room for complacency. She fears there will be a lost generation and missed opportunities for British business if the momentum is not maintained.

She said: "These figures are extremely encouraging. To have 31,070 new starters in the sector in 2011-12, compared with 22,300 in 2010-11, and 16,760 in 2009-10 shows how much excellent work has been going on to meet the skills challenge by both organisations."

"These are real jobs, many paying well above the national average, with young people earning as they learn new skills."

"But we shouldn't rest on our laurels. Engineering and manufacturing still has an image problem – we need teachers and parents to understand apprenticeships will benefit their children."

"The sector needs to recruit 82,000 people just to cover retirements up to 2016, so there is a real opportunity for young people."

## New caravan firm aims to prove industry is alive and well



**TRUSTED TEAM:** The team at Carabuild Leisure Homes, which has launched in Grovehill Road, Beverley. Picture: Jerome Ellerby

# 'Smaller businesses can work ... and we are the living proof'

**THE launch of a caravan manufacturing business is helping to prove the industry can continue to thrive in East Yorkshire.**

Carabuild Leisure Homes Ltd has turned a derelict industrial unit in Beverley into a manufacturing hub, creating a new brand of caravans to come from the region.

The family business is run by husband and wife duo Dana and Zane Butler and the team of seven is not short of the required skill set – it has more than 100 years of experience in the caravan manufacturing industry between them.

The 6,500sq ft workspace means the team have room to build two caravans at one time and, with the order book already brimming, they are positive their new venture can succeed.

Mr Butler said: "We are proof that smaller businesses can work."

"After years of working in the industry, we know what to

### InShort

Caravan manufacturers Carabuild Leisure Homes has opened its doors in Beverley.

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do. It is about making a sustainable business and we think we have got a good future."

The majority of the team previously worked at East Yorkshire's Willerby Holiday Homes, which made a number of redundancies last year.

Mr Butler said: "This business may be small-scale in comparison to other companies but we have a good team we know well and can trust."

Carabuild is also aiming to stand out from competitors, with an innovative service.

The business provides a bespoke design service, so customers can personalise

their leisure home to their specific requirements – something Carabuild said is a unique selling point.

Mrs Butler said: "We want people to find our leisure homes desirable and we are keeping them at a price people can afford. We want to be realistic."

"It is nice to have stability. We can take this business as far as we would like it to go."

"We think we can build on it when we want to. We believe in it and have put the work in."

For anyone, launching a new business can be a daunting process.

Mrs Butler said: "It was quite scary setting up business in an industry that is supposed to have fallen – and in January – but we are living proof it can be done."

"There is scope to keep building on it."

The couple said one of the main things about launching their own business was having the opportunity to give other people a job.

Mrs Butler said: "We know our staff really well and knew what skills they could bring to the table."

"We think we are very fortunate to have this team and starting a new company is a big risk anyway but it has been easier because we know them."

As the business continues to develop and more interest comes through the doors, nationally and internationally, Mr and Mrs Butler believe they are firmly placed on the road to success.

Mr Butler said: "We all have the eye for it and the feedback we have had so far has been great."

The businessman said Carabuild is also committed to having a helping hand in the local economy, using local suppliers.

He said: "We want to keep our business local so the area can benefit from it."

"That can only be good for the economy in the area, can't it."

## InBrief

### Miliband joins growing band of stars at YIBC 2013

**EVENTS:** Former Foreign Secretary David Miliband has been announced as the latest speaker for this year's Yorkshire International Business Convention (YIBC).

David will take to the stage The Spa Bridlington on Friday, June 8, along with fellow speakers including the former CEO of Tesco, Sir Terry Leahy; TV professor Brian Cox and six-time Paralympic gold medalist David Weir.

Paul Sewell, YIBC stalwart and master of ceremonies for the event, said: "David is one of the country's most respected politicians, he was at the heart of New Labour from the early 1990s right through the administration's 13 years in power."

"He has held one of the most prestigious positions of public office in not only the UK, but on an international stage as well."

"I imagine all the delegates are as excited as I am about welcoming him to Bridlington and will be very much looking forward to hearing him speak."

### Internet traffic levels soar

**TECHNOLOGY:** KC's internet traffic levels have soared by almost a third (30 per cent) on its network, as businesses and workers have embraced remote working to get around recent poor weather conditions.

The traffic surge is due to increased numbers of businesses using cloud software and virtual private networks to remain operational across KC's network.



**SURGE:** Gary Young.

Gary Young, business and consumer director at KC, said: "With increased connectivity and broadband speeds, there's no longer an excuse for bad weather to cause businesses to grind to a halt."

"It is so easy and cost-effective for employees to work from home using a computer and a mobile phone, and by having the right software and broadband service in place."

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## Pork producer's expansion set to create 100 jobs in city

■ **From page 1**

2011 to export its products to the US, making it the first British food company to receive American accreditation in more than 15 years.

Fishgate was constructed on the city's William Wright Dock in 2000.

The purpose-built auction house closed in June 2011 after a decision by its main Icelandic supplier to stop selling fish through the facility, ending a 150-year tradition of daily fish auctions being held in the city.

It has been gathering dust ever since. However, the 5,000sq m climate-controlled facility is now set to be transformed with the latest slicing, dicing and vacuum packing technology in preparation for work on the new Asda contract.

The sale of the auction house building was completed on Monday and the new facility is expected to open by the end of March.

"Now the sale is complete, we are moving in to convert the building into retail

slicing, dicing and packing lines," said Mr Aldersley.

"We will be heavily investing in new state-of-the-art machinery and this will be installed over the next six weeks."

Recruitment will begin straight away and our plan is to have Cranswick Riverside up and running by the end of March.

"These new jobs are open to everyone and with a difficult jobs market, we believe this will give a real boost to the area."



**SOLD:** The old Fishgate building in William Wright Dock, which has been bought by Cranswick Country Foods.