

Business

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GB duathlete gets in shape at park's gym

TEAM GB athlete Michael Buchallet is getting training help from a business park.

Buchallet is a duathlete, a discipline comprised of running and cycling, and hopes to compete at the European championships, which take place in Spain later this year.

As part of his preparation, he will be using the health and fitness centre at the Great Chesterford business park.

Katherine Maguire, manager at the research park, said: "We are delighted that Michael is able to make such good use of our facilities to help with his training.

"It's also very motivating for our members to see what can be achieved with dedication a lot of hard work. We will be following Michael's progress very closely and wish him well with the 2015 season."

Michael added: "Having access to the gym is of huge benefit to me. I am able to train there on average three times a week."

TRAINING: Michael Buchallet is using the facilities at C



Award for college's centre

ROBINSON College's conference centre has picked up a prize at the Meetings and Incentive Travel Magazine awards.

The college was given the bronze award in the best academic venue category at a ceremony in Battersea, London.

The awards are nominated and voted for by conference organisers across the country.

"This award is a great achievement because it represents the opinion of buyers within the industry and has been voted for by our own clients," said the college's conference and catering manager, Nick Milne.

"We place customer service and excellent facilities at the forefront of our offering, so it is wonderful to be recognised in this way and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to vote for us."

Green energy specialist backs EPC rental ruling

A GREEN energy pioneer has welcomed news that landlords will have to meet new energy efficiency regulations or face being unable to rent their properties.

Energy and climate change secretary Ed Davey said last week that landlords would have until April 2018 to meet the minimum energy performance certificate (EPC) 'E' rating. Government estimates suggest one in 10 of the country's 4.2m privately-rented properties currently fail to meet the standard, and penalties could be imposed if they are not brought up to scratch.

Peter Thom of Cambridge-based energy efficiency specialists Green Heat welcomed the announcement

and said it was a "much needed" step towards tackling fuel poverty.

"Fuel poverty is a major problem in this country, particularly among those living in rented accommodation, who are often on low incomes and more vulnerable," he said.

"Many are paying much higher bills in an attempt to keep heat-leaking properties warm and suffering poor health as a result of draughty, damp living conditions.

"We have some of the oldest and least energy-efficient homes in Europe, which are a huge cost to budgets, well-being and the environment. Measures making it impossible to rent a property that fails to meet an adequate EPC

rating is a vital step forward, not only in protecting tenants, but also in reducing carbon emissions. This will make a significant improvement to the nation's housing stock and landlords' carbon footprint."

Thom founded Green Heat 25 years ago, and in January announced that the firm had pulled out of the government's Green Deal, claiming it was confusing and costly for consumers.

However, he said that having a good EPC rating is beneficial to both tenants and landlords.

"Tenants will have a warmer, more comfortable home that is cheaper to heat and which they're more likely to stay in for longer," he said. "For landlords, empty periods, complaints

and repairs should decrease as a result.

"Energy use in our homes leads to much of the carbon emissions that are causing global warming. With a duty of care to tenants, responsible landlords making their properties more energy efficient by installing good insulation, an efficient heating system, double-glazing and low energy lighting will lower their properties' overall energy use and help to prevent climate change."

For more information, log on to greenheat.uk.com.



More from the Business team at cambridge-news.co.uk/business-news or on Twitter @CambsBiz

Workshop for social ventures

SOCIAL ventures in Cambridge can benefit from a new workshop aimed at helping them develop and quickly grow.

Future Business Centre Cambridge (FBC) is running a free 'grow your social venture' workshop tomorrow. It is open to social enterprises and charities facing challenging times and needing to increase profit, customers or impact.

Neil Prem, social enterprise business advisor at the FBC, will be leading the seminar.

He said: "There's no secret to growing a successful social venture. However, there are certain steps that if you don't take, you will fail. It's about developing the heart of your business and if you get that right, the rest will follow."

Covering topics such as developing marketing strategy, being clear about your niche, the workshop runs from 9am-6pm at the FBC. Join online at grow-your-social-venture.eventbrite.co.uk.

Redundancies made at Amantys but firm continues trading

ENERGY efficiency firm Amantys has made redundancies from its team in Cambridge, but says it continues to trade as normal.

The company, which is based at St John's Innovation Centre, has received £10m in funding in three investment rounds since its launch in 2010, but it appears the money may now be running out.

Finance director Nicholas Brann confirmed to the News that some staff were leaving the business,

but declined to specify how many people had been laid off. Brann also denied rumours that the firm had appointed administrators.

Amantys was formed five years ago by a team of former executives at Cambridge chip firm ARM, with the aim of transforming the design, implementation and control of electronic power systems. Its digital power switching product can be used in a variety of settings and in 2013 it agreed

a deal with Hitachi to try and crack the European wind turbine industry.

More recently, the firm released its power insight system, a communications and monitoring protocol for fibre optic links that can enhance the life of a cable by optimising its power usage.

ARM is one of a number of investors in Amantys, along with the Moonray Group, which provided two separate cash injections.