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Mentor to speak on city future

Bradford entrepreneur David Robertson-Brown (pictured) will join training specialist and business mentor Mark Rhodes to speak at a business networking event in the city next week.



Mr Robertson Brown is a director of Gumption & GB Offices, based at the Gumption Centre in Glydegate, Bradford, and one of the founders of pro-Bradford organisation Bradford Now Here, where he will speak at the Midland hotel on Monday, January 23.

David will speak about his background, what motivates him and also how he overcame some difficult business situations. He will also give his view on where Bradford should position itself with regard to its future development.

Mark Rhodes is an International speaker who will speak about how to improve results without little or no extra effort. Mr Rhodes set up an internet software company in silicon valley, California, and will explain how he met his goals.

For more details, visit bradfordnowhere.co.uk or call (01274) 288 888.

Display of unity as companies merge

Design teams come together to form largest 3D specialist

by Chris Holland
Business Reporter

Britain's largest specialist in 3D design and display will be partly based in the Aire Valley following the merger of two successful companies that have devised Christmas displays for major UK and European shopping malls.

Fuzzwire has been created from the merger of Keighley-based LDJ Design & Display with Centre Design of Prudhoe, Northumberland. It will combine the expertise of 120 employees who have worked on innovative displays in the UK, Europe and Canada.

Fuzzwire will retain two design and production sites and all former employees of the previous businesses – 80 in Keighley and 50 in Prudhoe – have joined the new operation.

The new company will focus on producing large-scale displays incorporating techniques such as 3D theatre, animatronics and lighting.

In addition to Christmas and other displays for major shopping centre owners across Europe, Fuzzwire will also look to develop demand in other areas such

as the events and entertainment industries.

Ian Stead, Fuzzwire chief executive, said: "With Fuzzwire we've created a vehicle capable of bringing new levels of innovation and quality into our industry. We have unrivalled experience and a highly-motivated team that's passionate about delivering creativity to delight both our clients and their customers.

"Fuzzwire will have greater scale and resources than any other business of its type in Europe. We firmly intend it will quickly become recognised as the clear market leader in 3D design – not just in the UK but internationally."

LDJ Design & Display was founded in 1986 and bought by current owner Trevor Smallwood in 2002. LDJ produced complex Christmas schemes for clients, including most of the UK's major retail property owners.

It specialised in the use of animatronics, grottos and 3D theatre and also recently introduced a specialist e-commerce lighting offering.

Centre Design was also founded in 1986 by Peter Mason and Iain Kerr and has created hundreds of large-scale Christmas display schemes for major shopping centres in the UK and Europe.

In 2011, the firm clinched its first contract project in North America, in the face of competition from both US and European competitors,



NEW TEAM: Trevor Smallwood, Ian Stead and Peter Mason

to design displays for the Eaton Centre in Toronto – Canada's premier shopping mall.

Peter Mason and Trevor Smallwood will serve on the main board of Fuzzwire.

Ian Stead has held board-level positions in major UK companies for nearly 20

years. In 2002, Ian was appointed chief executive of MDA Limited, one of the UK's leading providers of point of sale and marketing materials where he led a five-fold growth in revenue in nine years.

He joined LDJ as managing director last year.

Yorkshire leads firms expansion

Yorkshire firms led a 'robust' rise in output in December with the pace of expansion the strongest among all 12 UK regions, according to the latest Lloyds TSB PMI report.

New business rose following a marginal drop in November with firms recruiting extra workers at the fastest rate since March. Inflationary pressures continued to decline, with both input prices and output charges falling slightly.

Private sector firms in the region reported higher business activity for the fourth successive month, with the rate of expansion reaching a nine month high.

The headline Lloyds TSB Yorkshire & Humber business activity index, which measures the combined output of the region's manufacturing and service sectors, registered 57.2 in December, up from 54.2 in November.

Output rose in the services sector, while manufacturers saw a fall in new orders. Employment rose further in December and at the fastest rate since March in both manufacturing and services.

Resort on the market

Golf and business resort The Belfry is expected to attract "significant international interest" after it was put on the market.

The 550-acre Warwickshire resort, which has hosted four Ryder Cups and a number of European Tour events, will be marketed by Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels.

IN BRIEF

Risk introduction

A two-day course to help West Yorkshire companies reduce risk will be held later this month. The Institute of Risk Management is holding the course at The Rose Bowl, Leeds, on January 23 and 24. The course will offer a comprehensive introduction to risk management. Steve Fowler, IRM chief executive, said in an increasingly uncertain and volatile climate, businesses needed help in how best to position themselves to react to risks.

Sales are healthy

The owner of health chain Boots reported a strong Christmas driven by sales of beauty and cosmetic gift sets. Alliance Boots said its UK retail division, which has more than 2,500 stores, saw sales grow 4.1 per cent in the five weeks to December 31, while group revenue increased by 14.1 per cent compared to the previous year.

T&A ACTIVE SHARELINE

The FTSE 100

1518	Admiral	.....878	-1
	Aggreko	.....2035	+7
1589	AMEC	.....977	+1
2084	Anglo Amer	2595	+24{1/2}
2832	Antofagasta	.....1301	+2
	ARM Hldgs	.....581	+6
	Ashmore Grp	346{1/2}	-{1/2}
1674	Assoc Brit Food	.1131	+3
2937	AstraZen	3070{1/2}	+23{1/2}
2197	Aviva	.....324{1/2}	+1{1/4}
1890	BAE Systems	.....305	+2
1754	Barclays	.....199	-2
1722	BAT	.....2990	+20
2448	BG	.....1456	+3
2476	BHP Billiton	.....2080	+35
1920	BP	.....478	+1{3/4}
1916	British Land	.....467	+1
4816	BSkyB	.....683{1/2}	-9{1/2}
1616	BT Group	.....207{1/2}	+4{1/4}
	Bunzl	.....880	-2{1/2}
	Burberry	.....1300	+29
2036	Cairn Energ	.....291{1/2}	-{3/4}
4348	Capita	.....647{1/2}	-10{1/2}
1270	Capital Shop311{1/2}	-{1/2}
5544	Carnival1878	-370
2051	Centrica283{3/4}	-{3/4}

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Today's opening: 5657.4

3250	Compass610	
	CRH1243	
2791	Diageo1406	+16
	Essar Energ	172{1/2}	+2{1/2}
	Evraz	.....400	-1
	Eurasian Nat Res	735	+1
3806	Experian	.....875{1/2}	+3{1/2}
	Fresnillo	.....1707	+20
2685	G4S	.....268{3/4}	-1{1/4}
	GKN	.....202{3/4}	+6{1/2}
5694	GlaxoSmKl	.....1445{1/2}	+11
	Glencore	.....396{3/4}	-3{1/4}
2815	Hammerston	.369{1/2}	-{1/2}
	Hargrve Lans	.....441{1/2}	+12
2776	HSBC Holdings	507{3/4}	+3
2573	ICAP	.....331{1/2}	-5{1/4}
	IMI	.....869{1/2}	-1
1268	Imperial Tobac	.....2361	-22
1772	InterCont Hts	.....1220-15	
1950	Intl Cons Air	155{1/2}	-1{1/4}
4951	Intl Power	.....331{1/4}	-3{1/4}
	Intertek	.....2085	+14
	ITV	.....74	+{1/4}
3052	Johnson Matthey	.....2025-1	
3187	Kazakhmys	.....1067	+15
4538	Kingfisher	.....246{1/2}	-5{1/2}
3133	Land Securities	.634	-1{1/2}
3149	Legal & General	112{3/4}	+1
4320	Lloyds Banking Gp	29{1/2}	
3292	M & S	.....316{1/2}	-{1/2}
4672	Man Grp	.....110{1/4}	+3{1/4}
	Meggitt	.....371	+6{1/4}
3422	Morrison (Wm)	.288{1/4}	+1
4909	Natl Grid	.....628{1/2}	+3{1/2}
3499	Next	.....2607	+11
2987	Old Mutual Ins	.142{1/2}	+1
3620	Pearson	.....1250	+33
	Petrofac	.....1548	-6
	Polymetal Intl	.....1091	-9
3733	Prudential	.....670	+7{1/2}
3789	Reckitt Benck	.....3319	+9
3796	Reed Els	.....524{1/2}	+2{1/2}
	Resolution	.....262	-{1/2}
1886	REXAM	.....373{3/4}	+1{3/4}
3880	Rio Tinto	.....3589	+28
3853	Rolls-Royce Hid	.764	+1{1/2}
3874	Royal B of Sc	.24{1/2}	+{1/4}
2903	Ryl Dutch Sh A	.2258{1/2}	
2900	Ryl Dutch Sh B	.2338	-4
4134	RSA Insurance	.110	
1699	SABMiller	.....2327	+13
2871	Sage Grp	.....301{3/4}	+1{3/4}
3904	Sainsbury	.....283{1/4}	-1
3939	Schroders	.....1348	-3
3941	Schroders NVV	.1115	-1
	Serco	.....513	+{1/2}
5432	Severn Trent	.....1549	+7
1219	Shire	.....2186	+20
4043	Smith & Nephew	.....596	-2
4050	Smiths Group	.....937{1/2}	+2
3118	SSE	.....1246	-5
4094	Std Chartered	.....1468	+2
3728	Standard Life	.....205	+{1/2}
4197	Tesco	.....312{1/4}	-4{1/2}
4886	Tullow Oil	.....1428	-1
4347	Unilever	.....2077	+22
5422	United Ut	.....610{1/2}	+{1/2}
2473	Vedanta Res	.....1074	-11
5555	Vodafone	.....175{3/4}	+{3/4}
	Weir Group	.....2098	-12
	Whitbread	.....1616	-12
	Wolseley	.....2100	-10
4544	WPP	.....738	+7
2180	Xstrata	.....1073	+10

EXCHANGE RATES

Australia	.....1.4090	Dollars	Eurozone	.....1.1542	Euro	New Zealand	.1.7963	Dollars	Sweden	.....10.2400	Kronor
Barbados	.....2.6855	Dollars	Hong Kong	.11.2900	Dollars	Norway	.....8.8574	Kroner	Switzerland	.....1.3917	Francs
Canada	.....1.4890	Dollars	India	.....69.5100	Rupee	Pakistan	.....130.2500	Rupee	Thailand	.....43.6800	Baht
Czech Republic	28.4300	Koruna	Israel	.....5.3053	Shekels	Singapore	.....1.8441	Dollars	Turkish	.....2.6815	Lira
Denmark	.....8.5536	Kroner	Japan	.....111.9200	Yen	South Africa	11.7000	Rand	United States	1.4620	Dollars

Source: Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd

Bradford and Yorkshire prices

4030	Airea	.....11	
2937	AstraZen	3070{1/2}	+23{1/2}
1778	BBA	.....186{3/4}	+3{1/2}
2320	Dawson Intl	.....1{1/4}	
4706	Filtronic	.....24	+{1/4}
2563	Findel	.....3{1/2}	+{1/4}
3147	Leeds Group	.....17{1/2}	
3300	Marshalls	.....90	-{1/4}
3422	Morrison (Wm)	.288{1/4}	+1
1405	Pace	.....92{3/4}	+1{3/4}
3641	Persimmon	.....519{1/2}	+4
3731	Provident987{1/2}	+2{1/2}
3810	Renold23	+1
3853	Rolls-Royce764	+1{1/2}
4034	Slingsby672{1/2}	

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