

# News

## Exhibiting

A NORTHAMPTON businesswoman will be one of the exhibitors at The Prince's Youth Business Trust Fair at Birmingham NEC on September 9.

Rachel Fendle, 29, from the Spencer estate will be exhibiting her range of nursery fittings in a marquee which will be visited by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Rachel set up her business, Yuppie Puppies, in March with the help of the Prince's Youth Business Trust after having been unemployed for six years.

She sells a range of nursery furnishings, children's clothes and accessories.



**SPOT the Dog** from the popular children's book series made a guest appearance at Dillons Bookstore in Northampton on Saturday.

Spot is one of four children's favourites to be dropping in at the Market Square bookshop this month.

Anthony Ant and Peter Rabbit have already visited the new store and Orlando will be making a guest appearance there on Saturday.

Spot is pictured reading one of his stories with Susan Taylor, 9.

## £52,000 bill for health authority

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Health Authority has been billed for £52,000 by VAT inspectors.

The money will have to be found from the authority's budget for this year because the VAT rating has changed on continence medical supplies.

After August 1 the rating given on the supplies has gone from zero to the full 17.5 per cent.

The authority currently pays £440,000 for the continence service provided by Oxfordshire Community Health Trust.

The number of people benefiting from the service and the charge are set.

The VAT bill is set to increase for the next financial year to £78,000.

Peter Hildrew, director of communications at the health authority said: "The situation is that we have to supply continence supplies when treatment is prescribed across the

county. These are being supplied on a regular basis and Customs and Excise has decided that, after years in which these supplies were not subject to VAT, that they should be subject to VAT from August 1.

"We have not got the money, it was not budgeted for so it becomes an addition to the deficit that we are running and it adds to the financial problem next year.

He said: "I do not think we will at this point take any sudden action to cut anything else and we are not going to cut the service to the people who need it, they will not be penalised.

"But overall we have a deficit of over a million and we have to have a recovery plan and this will make the recovery much more difficult."

He added: "We are supposed to be financed to allow for any VAT charge but the effect of charging half way through the year is slight of hand by Customs and Excise."

## Performing

THE PRINCETON Singers, directed by John Bertalot, will be performing at St Matthew's Church, Northampton on Bank Holiday Monday.

Tickets to see the world famous mixed American choir cost £10.

For further details contact Patrick Rawlinson on (01604) 713617.

## Appointed

THE SUNLEY Management Centre at Nene College, Northampton has appointed a new business development manager.

Viv Sloan, who originally comes from Montreal, has worked in sales and marketing in Canada and Europe, has eight years experience in education and training and gained an MBA at Warwick University in 1993.

## Appealing

POLICE are appealing for information after cash was stolen from St Francis and St Theresa's Catholic Church in Overslade Close, Northampton on Monday night.

Burglars also took the priest's sick call book and some holy oil which is used for treating the sick.

Anyone with any information about the break-in is asked to contact Campbell Square police on (01604) 700700.

## Jobs may go at shoe company

JOBS could go at Northampton footwear company Chamberlain Phipps, which went into receivership this week.

The company called in the receivers to all its UK factories, including its Kings Heath site, on Monday.

And receivers Arthur Andersen are not ruling out the possibility of job cuts.

John Newton from Arthur Andersen said: "We will then trade normally with a view to finding a purchaser for the business as a going concern."

Chamberlain Phipps' UK operations employ a total of 480 people and last year reported a turnover of £31 million.

The insolvency of the company's UK operations has been blamed on increasing competition plus an abnormally quiet summer trading period which together led to a cash-flow crisis.



**CLOTHES** designed by four pupils from Weston Favell Upper School are on display in Northamptonshire County Council's Young Images Summer Exhibition.

Ashika Shah, Karen Thompson, Verity Barritt and Alexis Hammond are pictured modelling the waistcoats they designed as entries for the competition.

Ashika took third place in the three-dimensional craft section of the contest with her design and won £20.

But the judges decided that all four waistcoats were good enough to feature in the exhibition which opened at the Central Museum and Art Gallery in Northampton this week.

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