



Monthly News Update – April 2008

Welcome to the April edition of KIT-OUT the Park's Newsletter. This edition features a small Helensburgh-based business which has benefited from working with Glasgow Caledonian University through the KIT-OUT the Park project. This account was written by Carol Bone of the Handmade Pasta Company giving an account of her experience....

I was introduced to some of the team involved in the Kit-Out the Park project at a tourism 'Buy Local' event. The team were very helpful and took time to find out what kind of technical support would be of help to my handmade pasta business.

Assistance through this scheme has been simple to access and as my business is a small handmade pasta company it has been invaluable to get to know the food laboratory staff, actually spend time in the food laboratory and see how food is tested both for shelf life and for nutritional content.



I feel this particular relationship is quite unique and invaluable to a small food business (none of the commercial labs I have used in the past have been able to offer anything like this) and I would certainly foresee this relationship with Glasgow Caledonian University to be a long term and valuable one.

I also attended the Kit -Out the Park 'Green Technology for Businesses in Tourism' event at Gartmore House, Aberfoyle and learned a great deal about the wide range of businesses that the Kit-Out project has benefited. Again because the Kit-Out the Park team know each business owner on a personal level valuable contacts within the tourism industry were formed.



As my project has advanced, my expectations have not only been met but have actually grown with valuable input from the experts, but without compromising the original ethos of the company. Provision for future developments has been put in place in advance. Again personal contact with staff has been invaluable.

Kit-Out the Park has provided expert advice on a one to one no-nonsense level.

Forthcoming Events

As a service to our readers, KIT-OUT the Park regularly provides updates on conferences, seminars and events which may be of interest to companies in the tourism sector.

KIT-OUT the Park: Futures for Food Tourism Green Technology for Businesses in Tourism, Thursday 24th April 2008, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley in Stirling

Stirling Enterprise (STEP): Advice Clinic for Rural Business & Enterprise. Wednesday 30th April 2008, Drymen Library. Contact Caroline Brown on 01786-463416 or e-mail caroline.brown@bgateway.com

Project Team

Project Manager – Derek Gallaher
0141 331 8447
derek.gallaher@gcal.ac.uk

Project Officer – Abu-Zar Aziz
0141 331 8482
a.m.aziz@gcal.ac.uk

Project Officer - Audrey Meikle
0141 331 8458
audrey.meikle@gcal.ac.uk



Visit our new look website at

www.kit-out.org

for the latest case studies, testimonials and project news.

KIT-OUT Conversations – post your comments, views on our blog or use it to network with other businesses

<http://kitoutthepark.blogspot.com/>

Breaking News! Launch of new grant funding programme for rural businesses

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) worth a total of £1.6 billion over six years will be launched in April. It replaces the previous SEERAD Farm Business Development Programme, and aims to 'improve quality of life through diversification of economic activity'.

Projects that meet the Regional Priorities criteria are eligible to apply for uncapped, match funding. A series of public meetings to publicise the programme has already been rolled out across Scotland, with further workshops planned in the

coming months to talk potential applicants through the web-based application process and encourage uptake of the Scheme. An online document from the Scottish Government is available from

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/SRDP/RuralPriorities/Forth/Diversification

For further information contact Caroline Brown (on 01786-463416 or e-mail caroline.brown@bgateway.com), Farm & Rural Support at Stirling Enterprise (STEP) or come along to the STEP workshop in Drymen.