

WOT!

About Ratby

PUBLISHED BY RATBY SCOUT GROUP

MESSY MONDAY!

Ratby Church was filled with joy and laughter during one of the regular Messy Monday sessions in April. Children, parents and grandparents, and carers were busy with craft activities, practising circus skills or enjoying building giant Jenga towers.

The sessions are held regularly at 3.15 pm, and start with some much needed refreshments for children coming out of school. Children up to the end of school year 6 are welcome to come along with an adult.

Reverend Peter Hooper told us that the sessions began after parishioners were asked what else could be done to meet the needs of families. The afternoons are a different way of extending the hospitality of the church to the wider community. And it is clearly working. It was hard to tell who was having most fun, adults or children!

'This is the best fun I've had in ages,' Mrs Claire McLenna told us. 'It's very good. It's local. I don't drive, so it's ideal,' another parent said.

And Ava was really enjoying herself; 'I love to make things.'



Tianna with her doll.....



and Claire with her peg doll!

Messy Play is just one of the activities the church provides for families with young children, most of which are held in the church itself.

'We've come full circle,' Peter explained. 'In medieval times when the Church was built it would have been the only community facility.'

More on page 2



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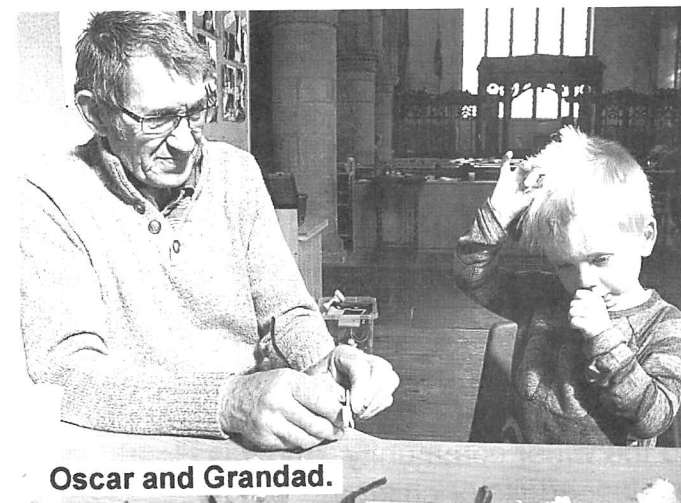
MESSY MONDAY continued

It was great to see this beautiful historic place filled with so many people enjoying themselves. Adults chatting together, children playing and making music. The social aspect seemed just as important as the activities themselves.

If you have young children come and experience it for yourself. It's Free! A small donation is welcome for refreshments.

The next sessions will be held on;
17th June and 1st July

Followed by a summer break.



Oscar and Grandad.

AN ORCHARD APPLE ROSEMARY RUSSET

This apple was declared to be the most popular by visitors to our Apple Day last October.

It is a classic English Russet apple, first mentioned in 1831, apparently in Brentford, Middlesex. It's a late dessert apple with greenish-gold skin with orange red and russetting. Pale cream flesh with a rich sweet/sharp flavour. A reliable cropper and will store until March.

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CAFÉ 27 OPENS in RATBY

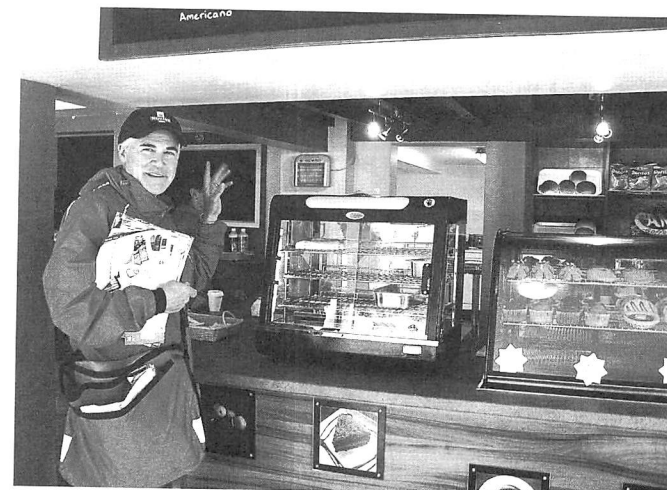
This exciting new 'place to go' opened its doors for the first time on Wednesday May 15th and was busy right from the word go! I popped in for a warming tea on a miserable grey day, and watched as a stream of customers came in.

Local couple Yvonne and Vaughan Murray of Markfield Road had always wanted to set up a café in the village, and the vacant premises on the corner of Station Rd and Chapel Lane proved the perfect spot. Daughter Gemma is managing the café, assisted by Chef Neil, and friendly staff Melissa, Abbey, Kate and Ryan.

The milk bar and take-away counter were open. It's a light spacious area with room for buggies and wheelchairs. A ramp is available for ease of access. There are toilet facilities, including disabled access.

A display of cakes and pastries looked tempting, and there was a healthy salad bar along the counter. Customers on this chilly first morning all wanted hot cobs and warm drinks. Three Highway's Maintenance men came in for their lunch. They had been passing through from the A46 and looking out for a café. Sean the postman popped in for a bacon cob.

'It's just what the village needs, somewhere you can get something hot to eat,' he said.



Sean pictured at the counter.

A young assistant from Ratby Chemist came in for her lunch and a milk shake. Nowadays people are not tending to make their own packed lunches, so Café 27 will provide a much needed service for local workers.

The café is also providing a packed lunch service for schoolchildren. Parents pushed for time can ring the night before and order the packs to pick up on the way to work and school. They will also offer deliveries to local

The aim is for a village café atmosphere with proper coffee and teas. The seated café area is almost finished, and there'll be comfy seats, a cosy area and a children's corner for parents and young children calling by after dropping off older children at school.

Older residents are not forgotten. There will be Senior Citizens specials. Gemma is promising good home-cooked food!

Yvonne says they are hoping to find some historic photographs of the village for the café walls. So if you can help please drop by with pictures they could copy! Interestingly Yvonne's maiden name was Harrison, and her family ran a farm in Desford. The shop premises were once 'Harrison's Drapery' business. So it could well be that the shop is back in the family again.



Service at the counter

Free WiFi will be an attraction for many. And they make a good cup of tea!

Café 27 will be open from 7.30 until 5 on weekdays, 9 am until 2 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Contact number **319 3119**.

Congratulations to this enterprising family. I am sure they'll make a great success of the business, and we'll all be meeting up there after a morning on the allotment or shopping in the village!

Wot! Roving Reporter


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RATBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, Main Street at 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.
Admission; Members £1.60, casual guests £2.60.
Refreshments included. All welcome.

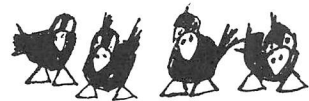
18th June-David Bell's talk on 'Leicestershire Heroes,' featuring Sir Alec Jeffreys, Alice Hawkins, Elaine Plewman and Johnnie Johnson. David will bring along a selection of his informative books to sell.

10th August ANNUAL SHOW. (Horticultural.)
Schedules available from the library, post office and local shops. Open to all. You don't have to live in Ratby to enter.

17th September – A talk on 'The Work of the RSPCA.' We have asked the speaker to bring along fundraising goods to help with the work of the charity. Donations of pet food, stamps and old mobile phones are always welcome.

15th October – 'Mablethorpe Children's Holiday Centre' A talk by Jim Roberts. Did you spend a holiday here as a child?

19th November – 'Life as a criminal Lawyer.' Answering the question 'How on earth can you act for someone you know is guilty?'



ANOTHER RATBY POET

Anthony (Tony) McCafferty is the present holder of the Ratby Village Society Cup for poetry, having won it with his poem "Firstborn". He has recently published an eBook of 50 poems which is available from Amazon and can be found in the Kindle bookstore, priced at only £2.06p.

To download and read the book you will need either a Kindle e-reader or a computer connected to the internet. Any search engine, such as Google, will easily respond to "Kindle Books".

The book is titled "From Innocence to Erotica in Poetry": the Author is listed as "Anthony McCafferty".

One of the poems taken from the book follows:-

Gentle Autumn

Come here my love and lay awhile with me,
And with your weary head upon my breast
Relax and let your thoughts drift dreamily
As you and I together take our rest.
This is our time of close companionship,
Take comfort in the warmth of my embrace
And smile, as softly with my finger tip
I trace familiar contours of your face.
I ask no more of life than tenderness,
Our youthful times of passion being spent;
But do not think my love is any less,
Or that in life today I'm not content.
We shared our Spring and Summer dearest
wife;
So now the gentle Autumn of our life.

ECO-TIP

Need a cup of tea? Only boil as much water as you need, when you need it. Try to avoid going back to reboil the water a few minutes after you first boiled the kettle.



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Funding helps Ratby Sports Junior Football Club Grow the Game

Grassroots football in Ratby has been given a helping hand following a £5,000 Grow the Game grant, from the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The grant will allow Ratby Sports Junior Football Club to further develop and invest in the future of the Club with new teams, coaches and improve the facilities for all.

Grow the Game funding increases participation in our national game by helping clubs to provide opportunities for new players,

**DEADLINE for issue 161
AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2013
FRIDAY 12th JULY**

EDITOR 239 3367

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ARTICLES 239 4873

Articles may be sent to 3 Ingle Drive
Or Email: sueboud@hotmail.com

or training volunteers to support new players and teams.

The programme is delivered in partnership with all of the 46 County FAs and funded by The FA.

So far Grow the Game has awarded 874 separate grants worth around £4.2m to grassroots football clubs. Analysis of the monitoring and evaluation so far predicts that this will result in the creation of 3,791 brand new football teams competing in FA-affiliated leagues, 72,872 new players participating each week and 10,959 new qualifications or courses being completed.

The key strength of Grow the Game is that its participation increases are sustainable rather than transient. Its grants create a solid infrastructure of teams and newly-trained coaches in which new people can start playing the sport, rather than simply providing temporary activity sessions, which are then vulnerable to drops in participation once the programme ends

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RATBY PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 24TH APRIL 2013

This has been a busy year for the Parish Council and the village. You will recall that the Council co-ordinated the Jubilee Fun Day which involved many of the village groups and was a great success. The Council is currently organising a Coronation Carnival to be held on 27th May, together with many of the village groups and it is hoped that this will also be successful.

Allotments

The village now has two thriving allotment sites, Pear Tree allotments in Desford Lane and the Taverner Drive site, both of which are leased to the Allotment Association.

Skate Park

The Council also provided an excellent skate park facility in Ferndale Park, with the support of various grants, i.e., Shires (Leicestershire County Council) Parish & Community Initiative Fund (HBBC), Harlow Timber, Markfield, Ratby & Groby Community Forum, Ratby Community Group. The remainder of funding was provided by the Parish Council.

This has proved to be very successful and feedback confirms that this is the best skate park in the county. However, this is slightly marred by the fact that a certain amount of vandalism has occurred on this facility, i.e., graffiti, some of which was extremely offensive. This has to be dealt with by professional graffiti removal experts. There have also been incidences of fire lighting on the area.

This was one of the most challenging projects ever tackled by the Council and hopefully this will provide many hours of enjoyment for the youth of the village.

Bloor's Appeal

Council was also involved in yet another appeal by Bloors to develop on green wedge land opposite Groby College. Both Ratby & Groby Parish Councils combined efforts to prevent this development and Borough Councillors and the Clerk gave evidence at the appeal. However, we have since been informed that Bloors have requested a Judicial Review in an attempt to overturn the Appeal decision.

Donations

The Parish Council also made several donations: Victim Support (Pride Alarms), Ratby Village Society, British Red Cross, Vitalise (Help & Support for local disabled people & carers). It also provided Diamond Jubilee commemorative medals for pre-school and primary school children. In addition, the Council has also purchased Coronation commemorative medals for these children, which will be distributed in due course.

Vandalism

Vandalism is still occurring in the village. The castle slide at Burroughs Recreation Ground had to be removed as it was badly damaged. Replacement of the equipment will be considered after the new lease is in place.

Swing seats at Ferndale Park have also been damaged. It appears that this has been caused by some dog owners allowing their dogs to bite the seats!

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Trees

- (a) To mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Council has planted a Cooper Beech at Jubilee Green. Stepping Stones awarded the Council a grant towards the cost. The brass plaque, granite block and the new Jubilee Green signs were funded entirely by the Parish Council.
- (b) Bradgate Lions approached the Council and offered 140 trees. These have been planted among an already established copse on the Balance Pond Field. Planting took place earlier this week and it is hoped that these trees will be left to mature. Previous sapling planting was not left to mature, having been pulled up less than a week after planting.

Dog Waste – Litter

(a) Dog fouling is still a big problem in the village, despite numerous dog waste bins through the village. Articles have been put in both the Local & Wot by the Borough Councillors and the Parish Council asking dog owners to take responsibility for their animals and clear up after them.

(b) Litter – the litter, particularly in the parks is horrendous, despite valiant efforts by the Maintenance Man. There are now two extra litter bins located by the skate park in Ferndale, so there really is no excuse for dropping litter.

Our thanks go to the litter pickers who regularly 'pick' throughout the village.

Flower Tubs

Our thanks also go to those villagers, who plant and care for the tubs/planters throughout the village. This is done voluntarily and is much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Bench

Thanks must also be recorded to the Knighton Trust who kindly donated a bench to the Council. This will be sited on Jubilee Green

Owl Seat

The Woodland Trust has replaced the owl seat at the Burroughs. A letter of thanks has also been sent by the Council. Pictured below.



Geary's Bakery Site

There was a public consultation meeting on 26th April between 6 & 8pm regarding the development of this site and architects, agents etc., were on hand to answer questions etc.

Wardens

Thanks should also be recorded to:

Archaeology – Neil Glenister
Badger – Jean Harrison
Flood – David Truman
Footpaths – Ken Harris & Colin Joyce
Heritage – Doug Harwood
Trees – Iris Hannaford

Merle B Joyce – Chairman, Ratby Parish Council

Brookvale's Got Talent!

On Thursday evening 18th April along with parents/carers/grandparents, staff and governors I went along to Groby Community College to enjoy the final of Brookvale's Got Talent. What an amazing experience!

The purpose of the competition was to raise funds for Rainbows, the children's charity and a most worthy cause.

A lot of planning, preparation and hard work had gone into the whole show. Everything was of a very high standard.

The finalists consisted of 4 female singers, 1 female accordion player and 2 male double acts. We were treated to a great night's entertainment. Once all the acts had performed the audience were asked to vote for their favourite act. A very difficult decision as they were all very good and very different.

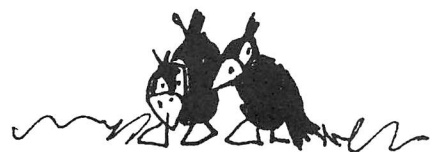
After the interval we were further entertained by 'The Spice Girls' (female members of staff) singing 'Stop!'. They proved a real challenge to Posh, Baby, Ginger, Sporty and Scary! Next we had Tom Jones, (a very senior member of staff), with his able backing group, (The Kitchen Ladies) singing 'Delilah'. Great Stuff! The entertainment was brought to a close by last year's competition winner, Katie, singing Jessie J's, 'Mamma Knows Best'.

The tension was growing – who would win?? Votes were counted and the winner was announced. 1 Sadie, 2 Tom & Ryan, 3 Jack & Mac. All most deserving winners. Sadie brought the evening to a close by performing once again, her winning song, Christina Perri's, 'Jar of Hearts'.

A great night, a great production, with over £600 being raised for Rainbows, and Brookvale students we all can be justly proud of. Well done everyone!

Ann Dunn

Brookvale High School, Governor



Ratby Village Website

This website is for you, the people of Ratby
<http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/ratby>
You can...

- add news items about your village
- add village events to the village calendar
- put photos of the village in the gallery
- buy/sell items on the virtual notice board
- have your say in the discussion forums.

To get involved simply REGISTER with the website (it's completely free, all you need is an email address). Once you are registered you can add all of your information to your village website.

You can also have your own page to let the community know about your business, group or club.

If have any questions or need help adding content to the website, or would like your own page, please contact Ken Hunnybun your **Ratby Site Administrator** by emailing ajmskh@aol.com

For those who are less sure of using the website, please get in touch and I will guide you every step of the way.

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Olive Smalley

It is with great sadness that we report that Mrs Olive Smalley passed away on 8th April 2013. Her funeral took place at Mintlyn Crematorium, Kings Lynn on the 24th April.

In 1974 Olive M. Smalley was part of a group of four public spirited residents in Ratby who repaired part of a wall between Station Road and Desford Lane. As a result the Ratby improvement committee was formed, Olive becoming an active member. At the A.G.M. on the 27th January 1976 the name was changed to the Ratby Village Society. Olive was voted on as the secretary and served as such and on the committee until she and her husband John moved to Heacham, Norfolk.

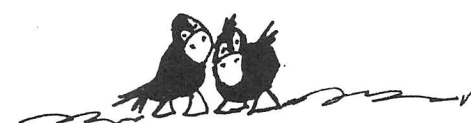
Olive carried with her the Village Society's aim of conserving the best aspects of the village and surrounding countryside whilst serving on the Parish Council during the 1980's. She chaired the Council for a period of time. Along with a group of like-minded people she helped establish practices for running the council, providing a firm foundation for later councils to build on. Her particular forte was in planning and letting the population know what was going on. She displayed a tenacious quality at a time when it was difficult to persuade the local

authorities to inform Parish Councils of pending planning applications.

She played a full part in village planning consultations and was diligent when attending public inquiries when undesirable developments threatened the village.

Her interest in Ratby did not fade after moving to Norfolk. A friend recalls her enquiring after the 'Coronation' cherry trees at the primary school which, in her capacity as a school governor, she had helped retain when the intention to fell them was expressed. One or two still adorn the playground.

Olive is survived by her husband John who also served on Ratby Parish Council as well as Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for many years and two sons to whom we send our best wishes and commiserations.



ORCHARD PLANS

Members of Ratby Community Orchard Group recently spent time on site inspecting trees and determining future plans for the Orchard. Pruning has been undertaken, and it was decided to continue with this action. In some cases trees will receive more comprehensive pruning to help us to produce bigger apples, and in some cases to create clearer pathways through the site.

The group will arrange to meet with the Parish Council to discuss future developments. Regular working afternoons were put in place to ensure that necessary maintenance could be achieved.

This year the cold weather has meant a late blossoming. This may prove to be a good thing, as early blossom can be damaged by frost. The weather has once again prevented us from having a member's 'blossom' picnic.



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ALL the FUN of the FAIR!

Ratby Parish Church will be holding its Annual Village fete on Saturday 29th June. It will be held in and around the Church and Church rooms. This years theme will be "All the fun at the fair" Music will be provided by Ratby mid band and this year we will also have a genuine fairground organ which should bring back some nostalgic memories for people. There will be fun and games for all the family Lots of good things to eat including: Hot dogs, popcorn, toffee apples and candy floss. Our beautiful church will be transformed into a peaceful tea room.

The fantastic 2B dancers will entertain us. We will have a variety of stalls for you to browse and ladies you can even treat yourselves to having your nails painted while the children get their faces painted.

How about entering our fancy dress competition? Its fun for all the family.

Categories;

age range under 5s

5yrs to 11 yrs.

Adult category for everyone else.

The costumes should have a fairground theme We look forward to seeing you all there.

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PRESTON CHICKEN CASSEROLE

A delicious one pot meal!

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1kg (2lb 3 ½ oz) chicken pieces (8, such as thighs, drumsticks.
- 1 onion finely sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 celery sticks, thickly sliced
- 2 carrots cut into 2cm (3/4") chunks
- 2 leeks, cut into 2cm chunks
- 600g (1lb 6oz) potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 1 level tablespoon plain flour
- 600ml (1 pint) hot chicken stock
- 2 rosemary sprigs
- Half a lemon

Method

1. Heat oil in a large flameproof, lidded casserole. Season chicken pieces. Brown all over for 10 mins. Remove and set aside.
2. Drain fat from pan, return 1 tablespoon back to the pan.
3. Preheat oven to 200C, 180C fan oven/Gas 6
4. Add vegetables to the pan, stirring for 5 – 10 mins. Stir in flour. Cook for 2 min. Pour in stock. Season well.
5. Return chicken to pan. Add rosemary and squeeze over lemon juice. Drop lemon half into pan. Cover and bring to boil.
6. Transfer casserole to oven and cook for 30 – 40 minutes until chicken is cooked through and the sauce is piping hot and thickened.

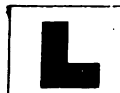
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BE AN EGG-CELLENT GARDENER

Gardeners are being urged to take extra care this spring. The promise of warmer weather gets many of us thinking about trimming or removing garden greenery, but at the same time our feathered friends are busy building their nests, laying their eggs and munching their way through caterpillars and other pests. Although all nesting birds have legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act from the moment they start building the nest until the young have fledged, it only takes a moment for a nest to be accidentally destroyed. Birds such as robins, sparrows and blackbirds are in decline and need all the help they can get, especially after a harsh winter.

Neil Pilcher from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust said, "We ask everyone to be careful as dense hedges such as Leylandii are good nesting sites, but any hedge, tree, shrub or ivy should be quickly checked just before starting work. If not doing the work themselves, householders should ask their contractor to check for nests too. If in doubt, the work should be postponed until the end of August when the breeding season is over."

For further advice contact the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust on 0116 2720444 or e-mail info@lrwt.org.uk

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FLEXIBLE LEARNING CENTRE FUNDED BY DAVID WILSON LAYS FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

David Wilson has given his backing to a new centre designed to help students develop basic construction skills at Groby Community College. The programme will be in partnership with Leicester College where expert teaching and progression routes at post 16 will help support those students wishing to access construction apprenticeships.

The new Flexible Learning Centre at Groby Community College will open in September 2013. Made possible by an £80,000 donation from the David Wilson Foundation, the new purpose-built Centre gives students the perfect opportunity to study the three main trades – bricklaying, plumbing and carpentry – in a realistic working environment with all of the tools and equipment linked to each trade available to them.

The centre will provide access to up to 50 students each year. Vocationally based courses delivered by the Centre include the City and Guilds Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Basic Construction Skills, with students taught by staff from Leicester College. In addition to Groby Community College students, the Centre is also used by Brookvale High School who share the campus with the college.

Endorsing the new Centre, David Wilson said: "A key aim of the David Wilson Foundation is to help young people acquire construction skills for their future. This new Construction Centre is the perfect example of that aspiration in action, giving young people an ideal introduction into the construction industry and the skills needed to succeed."

Commenting on the future success of the Centre, Sue Varnam, Groby Community College's Curriculum Leader for Flexible Learning said: "The grant from the David Wilson Foundation has given the students who need it most on our campus an exciting opportunity to follow a programme in construction, which will play a part in significantly engaging those students who find it hardest to secure proper progression routes at college and long term employment." "Not only will students develop knowledge and understanding as they work towards their qualifications, but they will also gain skills that will prove invaluable in their future careers." Groby Community College's Principal, Robert Coles, said: "We are so very grateful to The David Wilson Foundation in helping to make this Construction Centre a reality. This opportunity will help some of our most vulnerable students gain a real insight into the world of work and will help to provide them with relevant skills which will support them in securing long term jobs and a prosperous future." It is anticipated that the new Construction Centre will open for the first students in September this year.

