

ON-SITE

SPRINGFIELD NEWSLETTER ISSUE 30 **October** 2010

Another Firm Joins Springfield

LESS than a month after going public with our intentions to expand into the Central Belt the Springfield Group has been making the news again.

This summer a new company specialising in bathrooms, bedrooms and kitchens was created under the name Planet BBK.

You can read about the new addition to the Springfield family elsewhere in 'On-Site' but it's another encouraging sign of the company's growth and confidence that brings 22 jobs.

Our expansion into Perthshire and the Central Belt is moving ahead – a move that is pivotal to the continuing growth of Springfield Properties but one that will not happen overnight.

As time passes the expansion will gather pace.

As we move into autumn the weather is reasonable and progress has been good on sites at Forres where we continue to be busy at Thornhill, Knockomie Meadows and the Moray Hydrotherapy Pool. Work is also continuing in Elgin, Buckie and Macduff.

'On-Site' keeps you up to date with lots of Springfield news. Remember, it is your newsletter. If you hear of something you think could be of interest contact us by calling Jane Innes at the Head Office or drop her a line at Alexander Fleming House.

Expanding Planet!

MORE than 20 jobs have been saved following the acquisition by the Springfield Group of the assets of the former Elgin-based Property Improvements business.

It means a new member to the Springfield Group family of businesses and one that will bring valuable expertise "in-house" when it comes to equipping our new homes with vital features.

Poor trading conditions experienced by bathroom, bedroom and kitchen specialists Property Improvements earlier this year led to the firm being placed into receivership by the Inland Revenue. The firm's difficulties were largely as a result of an exceptionally poor performance of Property Improvements' rental business.

The Springfield Group, led by chairman Sandy Adam, set up a new company called Planet BBK with former Property Improvements sales manager Darren Thomson and bought the working assets of Property Improvements.

The new company started trading in early June with Darren Thomson as managing director. Property Improvements subsequently went into receivership.

The actions of the Springfield Group and Darren Thomson have ensured that the jobs of the 22 employees of Property Improvements have been secured.

The new Planet BBK Company operates bathroom, bedroom and kitchen showrooms in Elgin and Aberdeen and manufactures bathroom furniture in Elgin. All but six of the employees are based in Elgin.

Our chairman said: "There's a clear synergy between Planet BBK's expertise in the supply and fitting of kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms and the housebuilding needs of Springfield



Managing director of Planet BBK Darren Thomson is looking forward to being part of the Springfield Group.

New Springfield Company Saves Jobs for Moray

Properties that will benefit both companies in addition to securing badly-needed jobs in Moray."

Darren is looking forward to becoming part of the Springfield Group. Born and brought up in Elgin he graduated in civil engineering from Edinburgh University and went on to complete a Master's degree before moving in to the kitchen and bathroom business in Glasgow. He returned to Moray six years ago.

"The old firm supplied bathrooms to the Dunkinly development so I already have

links with Springfield," he said. "I'm really looking to the challenge ahead as Planet BBK."

He says the firm will be "retail focussed" and be continuing to manufacture its Speyside Furniture line of bathrooms at their Elgin workshop at Tyock while hoping to provide more for Springfield's range of quality homes.

Planet BBK bathroom have been specified for Phase 2 and 3 homes at Letterfourie in Buckie and at Knockomie Meadows in Forres.

Andrew's Bonus!

THIS month's lucky winner of the 'On-Site' supermarket voucher draw is Andrew Norcross who is currently working on our Knockomie Meadows site in Forres. He's delighted with his £100 Tesco voucher prize which will be well spent on his next visit to the supermarket. Congratulations Andrew!

Springfield Staying on Top.....

ONCE again Springfield Properties has been hailed as one of the top house-builders in Scotland.

A few weeks ago we were among the finalists in the annual Herald Property Awards after being shortlisted with three other construction firms in the Best Family Home category.

The awards were presented on September 21 in Glasgow a year after we were highly-commended in

the 2009 Herald Property Awards for our showhouse at Glassgreen Gardens in Elgin.

Our designs and quality homes have brought many accolades to Springfield and its staff – and if you turn to Page 3 you'll be able to read about another star-studded performance in the annual Premier Guarantee Excellence Awards.

Read on....!

Flu Punctures Gordon's Peak Attempt

LINKWOOD Site Manager Gordon Adam is not just one of our dynamic young managers – he's an enthusiastic cyclist.

Away from work there's nothing Gordon likes better than getting into the saddle and putting some miles under his belt.

And on September 11 he had a plan to challenge himself and raise money for a well-deserving charity called Disability Snowsport United Kingdom – a nationwide group who describe themselves as a people-centred organisation with a unique sense of purpose to enable anyone, regardless of their disability, to take part in and enjoy the thrill of snowsport.

They have applied exceptional know-how and adaptability for over 30 years to enable those with a disability to experience the joy of skiing alongside the able-bodied and have strived to deliver exciting and life enhancing activities for individuals or groups who require adaptive equipment or special instruction and support to ski or enjoy snow sports.

But just as he was gearing up for first ever 70-mile Peak 2 Peak ride from the Ben Nevis Car Park at Fort William to the Cairngorm Car Park our charity champion was struck down by flu.

"I was all ready to go," said a disappointed Gordon, "The route looked really cool and I was looking forward to it. But when the flu hit me there was no way I could have made it and I had no choice but to call off the attempt.

"A lot of people had sponsored me and I was hoping to make a good effort – but the flu got the better of me."

But the 26-year-old mountain bike fan is not giving up.

"The people who sponsored me have already helped the charity," he said. "The money they pledged in my name has gone to Disability Snowsport already."

He says that if the charity decide to run the event again next year – and after a good turnout for the first Peak 2 Peak event that's a strong possibility – he'll be there.

The route took competitors in the first event to an altitude of nearly 2500 feet in the mountains and raised a lot of cash for DSUK.

"I'd like to thank everyone who sponsored me – and am just sorry I couldn't do it this time," says Gordon. "But there's always next year and they can help Disability Snowsport again."

Springfield Site Profile 9 – LINKWOOD

Linkwood Progress

THIS month's Site Profile highlights one of Springfield Properties' most recently recruited Site Managers.

Twenty-six-year-old Gordon Adam looks after the Linkwood development in Elgin as it nears the end of its construction phase.

That's not to say there's any less activity at this important Elgin location – far from it.

Gordon's team can vary from between 12 and 17 staff depending on the jobs that are needed – but the Linkwood housing site is constantly busy as the Site Manager steers it towards a conclusion that will probably be before the end of this year.

"We have four or five houses left to finish," says Gordon. "They are all private homes and mainly detached designs. The men are making good progress and if we get the weather we need we'll move on towards completion without too many issues."

The Site Manager hails from Craigellachie but now lives in Elgin where he enjoys his responsibilities.

He started work with Springfield Properties 12 years ago straight from school as a 15-year-old apprentice scaffolder.

He clocked up many years as a scaffolder on various sites in the group

But was made up to Site Manager just three



Site Manager Gordon Adam has taken well to the responsibilities of a Site Manager.

months ago.

How does he like it?

"Brilliant!" he says. "It's a great job – especially when the weather's bad I don't

have to be up on the scaffolding!

"Site management is a different job all together. It's really challenging and full of interest."

Your Say is Important!

YOU will have recently received correspondence and a questionnaire about Springfield participating for the second year in the Best Companies Sunday Times List 2011 and Accreditation 2011 Survey.

Your responses will help us to recognise what our organisation is doing well and also identify areas for improvement.

The more results we obtain, the more accurate a reflection we can get on how we are performing and how we can improve our working environment.

We would appreciate your involvement by completing the confidential survey as soon

as possible if you have not already done so, to ensure your views are included within the results.



And remember, Springfield will donate £2 to the Fraser Smith fund for every response received by Best Companies. Fraser is a local toddler who suffers from a rare form of eye cancer. His family are friends of our well-known

site manger, Parkus, and we are doing what we can to help.

To be sure of arriving on time your reply should be sent off in the pre-paid envelop provided by October 1.

Hydrotherapy

OUR team is making good progress on the Moray Hydrotherapy Pool site at Forres where much of the block work has been completed and the roof supports have been delivered. The project is on schedule for completion by the end of the year.

Guaranteed Excellence!

WE have come up trumps once again in a prestigious annual award where we have triumphed in previous years.

The Premier Guarantee Excellence Awards has awarded Springfield Properties three major accolades in their 2010 search for the best in the country.

It's a big boost for everyone on the staff and on our sites that delivers:

- Regional Winner in the Large Development of the Year Category for your site at Glassgreen Gardens.
- Regional Developer of the Year
- Regional Site Manager of the Year

The news was announced in late September to the delight of Springfield chairman Sandy Adam and our managing director Sandy Anderson OBE.

For the third winner in our list the 2010 Premier Guarantee Excellence Award for Scottish Regional Site Manager of the year is a particular feather in his cap.

It's not the first big award for Glassgreen Gardens Site Manager Victor Grant. He's a previous winner of the Springfield in-house Site Manager of the Month title and was on hand last year when the Glassgreen Gardens showhome was highly-commended in the annual Herald Property Awards.

This time Victor has even more reason to smile because the Premier Guarantee Regional Site



Premier Guarantee Honours Springfield

Manager of the Year Award hits an even higher level.

The Premier Guarantee Excellence Awards have been designed to recognise the very best of the

UK housing market and inspire others in building outstanding developments. The organisation received its highest number of entries this year and described the standard as "nothing short of exceptional".

A spokesman for Premier Guarantee said: "Despite the difficult period the construction industry is going through, it is very encouraging to see so many house builders maintaining the high standards needed for the UK market."

And he added: "After our judges had visited all of the shortlisted entries, they felt that Springfield Properties displayed excellence in technical competency, coupled with an ability to demonstrate first-rate project management skills and high levels of customer service plus an ability to use new concepts to push the boundaries of conventional construction."



Premier Guarantee Regional Site Manager of the Year Victor Grant.

The triple wins are a credit to everyone in the firm. Victor will receive his award at a presentation scheduled for early November when Springfield will also receive its Regional Large Developer of the Year Award for Glassgreen Gardens and its Regional Developers of the Year Award.

Elgin Site Plans On Show Soon

LATER this month the public will get a chance to see what Springfield plans to do with two large areas of Elgin that will further boost the city's housing stock.

The two areas in mind are R9 and R10 that between them have been zoned for 160 houses.

R9 has been named Duncanshill and R10 is Duncansfield.

Duncanshill lies to the south of our Glassgreen development while Duncansfield occupies an attractive area to the north of Elgin Golf Club.

On November 11 at Unit 3 on Southfield Drive in Elgin local people will be invited to view the proposals that are intended to provide a high quality mix of houses, three-story flatted developments and bungalows.

Interested in Youth Development?

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme has helped thousands of young Scots achieve high goals – and now the Moray organisation that promotes the scheme is inviting young people to get involved and wants volunteers to come forward to support the scheme.

If you are aged 14 to 25 or know someone in that age group who may be interested in taking part, get in touch with local Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer, Gavin Morgan.

The scheme is also looking for adults or parents who may be interested in getting involved in some way.

Gavin is based at Lossiemouth Community Centre and is keen to hear from either group – participants or volunteers.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Moray is run by The Moray Council and supported by a volunteer organisation – "The Moray Local Awards Committee" - that comprises adult members of the local community throughout Moray who volunteer to support young people to achieve their DofE award.

The scheme is the world's leading accreditation for young people, aged 14 to 25 years, and offers awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels for undertaking and completing four sections - skills, physical activity, volunteering and expeditions.



Says Gavin: "This year we have seen a move to a new online record book system (eDofE) that gives young people the chance to upload and track their progress online."

He says there has been a large increase in young people participating in DofE in Moray and with this comes the need for more adult volunteers to support young people.

Gavin tells 'On-Site': "Volunteers can be assessors for a specific section such as

a running coach for the physical section, a golf instructor for the skills section or someone in the local community organising volunteering opportunities for young people.

"They might be someone who enjoys outdoor activities like walking, camping, cycling, canoeing, horse-riding, sailing and can help assist and support young people to train and practice for a self-reliant, unaccompanied qualifying expedition of up to four days".

The MLAC are actively fundraising to support both the young people and the volunteers who support them in areas such as equipment for their expeditions and volunteer training and development opportunities.

If you are interested, either as a participant or adult helper, contact Gavin on 01343 813614 or email him on dofemoray@gov.uk

Advertising here is free!

If you have a personal ad or you want to advertise an event or charity or service or raise the profile of a club or organisation contact **Julie McPherson** our receptionist on **01343 552550** or at **julie@springfield.co.uk**

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

Blood Donor Sessions for October/November include:

05/10/10 Forres: Forres Town Hall 14:30 – 16:00 & 17:00 – 20:00

17/10/10 Dufftown/Aberlour: Mortlach Memorial Hall 10:30 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 16:30

24/10/10 Banff: Banff Academy 10:00 – 12:30 & 14:15 – 16:30

09/11/10 Nairn: Nairn Community Centre 13:30 – 16:00 & 17:00 – 20:30



Portgordon Fireworks

Portgordon Fireworks are looking for volunteers for this years event. Anyone that could give up their time on

Friday 29th October to help as stewards/collectors please contact **Kevin** on

**01343
555444**



PLANET

BATHROOMS, BEDROOMS & KITCHENS

Planet BBK: Your local Kitchen, Bathroom and Bedroom Specialist. Take your copy of On-site to Planet BBK's showroom on the Tyock Industrial Estate Elgin and receive a further **10% off** all marked prices.

This offer is valid for 6 Months.



Interested in supporting young people?

Aged between 14 and 25?

How about undertaking the World's leading accreditation for young people.

You'll enjoy loads of new experiences, discover talents you never thought you had, challenge yourself and meet loads of people just like you. Plus you'll do things you love and get a kick out of. It's a real buzz!

Visit the website <http://www.dofe.org/> for more info.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Moray (DofE Moray) is seeking the help of adults who would be interested in volunteering to support young people through their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

- Would you be interested in becoming a Group leader and enrolling and supporting a group of young people from your area to participate and complete their DofE Award?

Or

- Do you enjoy the outdoors and would be willing to help support DofE expeditions (Hill walking, Canoeing, Mountain biking/ camping) with a qualified expedition supervisor?

If you are interested you can contact me on: **Gavin Morgan, DofE Moray Award Officer**
The Moray Council, 01343 813 614
gavin.morgan@moray.gov.uk