

Care firm appoints Betty as new operations director

A CAREER change has seen a woman take a top care role.

Betty Sidwell from Fairbourne has recently been appointed as an operations executive for an award-winning care company in Bangor.

The 52-year-old has joined Abacare and will be responsible

for managing a team of carers in Fairbourne, Harlech, Tywyn, Dolgellau and Barmouth.

Betty said: "I am thrilled to have joined the team at Abacare. Wales has always been a big part of my life thanks to childhood family holidays and bringing my own children to

visit later in life.

"After my husband's death four years ago I sold my house in the West Midlands and moved to Fairbourne and took time out to concentrate on my hobbies of photography and writing.

"When I turned 52 I decided

on a complete career change after previously working in education with children with special educational needs.

"I am really enjoying my position at Abacare and it is great to work with an incredible team who support our awe-inspiring service users."

Amanda Dingli, Recruitment and HR Officer at Abacare, said: "In a short period of time Betty has already proven that she is going to be a valuable asset to our existing team.

"She has settled in really well and is eager to make a difference to the life of others."

Desperate need for greater housing

A DEVELOPER says "unprecedented" demand for homes has seen it agree sales on 40% of units on a new project before even the show house is unveiled.

St Asaph-based Macbryde Homes says the demand highlights the need for more quality housing in North Wales.

The family-owned business has been established for more than 30 years and is due to shortly launch show homes at two of its newest developments, but as director Ruth Macbryde explains, the need for more homes has never been as pronounced as it is now.

She said: "We'll be launching our four-bedroom Wentworth show home at Erddig Place in Wrexham during July, yet already we've sold or reserved over 40% of the development.

"Similarly, at Oakley Park in Ellesmere Port we'll be unveiling three new show homes at the end of July, and there we reserved over 20 reservations within weeks of launching our sales office at Easter.

"This level of interest serves to highlight just how desperately needed new homes both in Wales and the north west of England are."

Erddig Place, on the former Brother Industries site in Wrexham, will be comprised of 79 two-, three- and four-bedroom homes.

Prior to Macbryde Homes gaining planning permission, the site had been vacant for many years.

Ms Macbryde added: "Both Erddig Place and Oakley Park present affordable family homes in areas where there has been a lack of significant development in recent years.

"We're finding that both sites are particularly popular with first-time buyers, many of whom are utilising the Help to Buy incentives to purchase their new home.

"It's our feeling that the successful identification and allocation of new sites, which should be a mix of both green and brownfield sites, is key to enabling us to keep delivering homes at a rate that will keep up with increasing demand."

Time-saving school app helps scoop tech award

By OWEN HUGHES

Business Correspondent
owen.hughes@dailypost.co.uk

AN APP developed by a Llandudno company to reduce paperwork at a Gwynedd school has won a top technology award.

The Wales Technology Awards by ESTnet celebrated the outstanding successes of a sector that contributes more than £8billion to the Welsh economy.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns praised the contributions made by the circa 3,000 businesses and more than 40,000 people who, alongside leading universities, are driving the progression of the Welsh tech sector.

Bangor's Ysgol Cae Top primary school saw off stiff competition from other schools and organisations across Wales to claim the 'Best Tech Adopter' award, for its innovative use of technology, which alleviates time pressures for staff and reduce costs through the use of the app, eeZeeTrip.

The app, which was made by Llandudno-based software firm Semantise Ltd, allows schools to organise attendance and payments for school clubs, external trips, music lessons and sports fixtures.

In addition to eliminating the curse of the lost permission slips, the app provides environmental advantages in paper



■ The Wales Technology Awards 2017 Steve Dimmick, Doopoll; Llew Davies, head at Ysgol Cae Top; Oggy East, and Rebecca Lewis, General Dynamics

reduction, and saves schools' administrator and teacher time.

Llew Davies, headteacher at Ysgol Cae Top, said: "It's excellent to see the product celebrated and we hope we're setting an example for other schools to follow. Schools don't need to be told what they need - we should be going out to the private sector telling them what we need to help children learn."

The app allows the school to communicate with parents about upcoming events and to

manage responses and consent forms via the free cloud-based mobile app.

Responses are immediately visible and the payment option saves parents time, while the 'shopping basket' feature allows parents to pay for multiple actions in a single transaction.

Describing the partnership to develop the app, and plans for the future, Oggy East, Director of Semantise, said: "It was a fledgling idea from the school who came to us to implement and

we're now supplying schools across Wales and England. Feedback from the schools and parents about the convenience and time-saving benefits has been phenomenal.

"We're really proud of what we've done using tech made in Gwynedd to transform how a school in Gwynedd operates."

Judges were particularly impressed by the school's application of the app to increase opportunities for students and parents while streamlining

resources and decreasing overheads.

Speaking at the Wales Technology Awards, Mr Cairns said: "Innovation helps drive the UK economy forward. Not only can it revolutionise the way we live our lives, it can bring real opportunities for businesses to tap into and grow.

"Innovate UK is the UK Government's innovation agency working with people, companies and partner organisations to help them do just that."

Business student dazzles in collaboration with local firm

A BUSINESS student has put safety first and made a dazzling impression in her new role at a top North Wales training centre.

Having just completed the first year of the new Applied Business degree at Wrexham Glyndwr University, Lucy Belk can look back on a job well done.

The course blends paid work experience with taught lectures and interactive sessions, so the student can earn for three days and learn for two each week.

Lucy, 19, had spent years in retail having left school without

A levels, and was unsure whether her qualifications would be enough to secure a higher education.

But on meeting with North Wales Business School she was reassured and signed-up immediately for the degree, which is run in partnership with Delyn Safety UK.

She is now balancing her studies with a business administrator position at the Mold firm.

"I'm loving the job, particularly the marketing aspect and getting my teeth into

different parts of day-to-day operations," said Lucy, from Wrexham.

"I've had the opportunity to grow in the position and the team here have been very supportive in helping me to develop in line with my lectures.

"It's a challenge, but one that I'm really enjoying - I would definitely recommend the degree to other people."

Mike Joy, managing director of Delyn Safety UK, said the company's collaboration with Wrexham Glyndwr University has had a positive effect, even

leading to several awards.

"As a small firm, being involved with the Applied Business degree has been fantastic," said Mike.

"The placement has just the right balance of support in both the workplace and university and is able to integrate projects related to elements of the course.

"This mix has enabled us to develop new business schemes and even led to us achieving public health awards."

He added: "Lucy is now a key member of our team and I

would advise anyone looking to take on a graduate to consider this degree first."

The University is currently recruiting for the next cohort of Applied Business students.

They will gain employment at manufacturing giant Kronospan, a global company producing and distributing wood-based panels from its base in Chirk.

Anyone who is interested in studying Applied Business at NWBS can call 01978 293155 or email lisa.hitchen@glyndwr.ac.uk.