

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Musings from Surrey Chamber's Technology Patron Arcom IT...



Heather Abela, Arcom IT, Technology Patron to The Surrey Chambers of Commerce

FIRST OF all thank you for taking the time to read a column about IT. It's not the most provocative of subjects to say the least. I don't think anyone's ever read an article about the latest graphics card or the best configuration for a telephone system and been moved to tears (unless, of course, they have configured their phone system in a really disastrous fashion!). As a result people tend to accept IT as part of their business as one accepts that brussel sprouts are part of their Christmas dinner. Grudgingly.

But it shouldn't and doesn't need to be this way. We know that gigabits, protocols and applications don't get everyone's blood pumping but any IT company worth their salt knows that what matters is not an encyclopaedic knowledge of Windows (though that helps) but people. Networks are all about sharing. Whether you are two people sharing a printer or two hundred people sharing software, good IT advice focuses less on our business and more on yours.

You've got some big decisions to make and they can't be avoided. There's no time machine (we're technically good but we're not that good) to whisk us back to those 'halcyon days' before computers were invented. Progress marches on, infrastructures get leaner, meaner, greener and you have to decide whether your company is at the forefront of that movement or lagging behind spending more time and money resuscitating antiquated systems.

So from now on this column is going to be more exciting than Keanu taking on The Matrix (which demonstrated some serious configuration flaws we might add!) and start examining IT solutions that can bring out the best in your business. I know you don't believe me now, but just like brussel sprouts: you'll learn to love them.

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## SISTERS ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES



THE RECESSION is awakening the entrepreneurial spirit in women, according to accountants Davis Burton Sellek.

Partner Dawn O' Leary said: "This can only be a good thing. Increasingly women are moving away from the shackles of corporate life and setting up their own businesses and this trend looks set to continue. Long hours and punishing commutes that keep mothers away from their children and from their homes appear to be the driving force behind many new business start ups."

She said there were now more than one million self-employed women in the UK and some believed this figure would double in the next decade. "With talk of female boards and millionaires and the end of the infamous glass ceiling, I believe we are at the forefront of something very exciting. Over the past 18 months I have personally seen an increase in the number of females looking for professional advice to help them grow and manage their businesses effectively."

[www.davisburtonsellek.com](http://www.davisburtonsellek.com)

## Army career on the march

The career of the first Army bursary student at Guildford College's Merrist Wood, Campus marched ahead when he completed his phase one training at Pirbright recently

JAMIE BEAZLEY, 17, (pictured) will complete his training as a driver operator at Leconfield Barracks before joining his unit in Germany.

Public Services lecturer Tracy Lenton said that Merrist Wood was one of the first colleges in the area to offer the Army bursary scheme, in which the Army sponsors the student's training at the College and employs them afterwards. The Public Services Diploma prepares students to do their basic training in the uniformed public services including Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, the Police Force, Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

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