

Client: Direct Selling Association
Source: The Huddersfield Daily Examiner
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Let's shout about the good news!

EXPANSION PLANS, NEW APPOINTMENTS, BIG CONTRACT WINS - OR JUST SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHOUT ABOUT. KBN EDITOR **MARTIN SHAW** LOOKS AT THE GOOD NEWS COMING OUT OF LOCAL FIRMS

FAST-GROWING law firm Ridley & Hall has increased revenues by almost 21% year on year.

The Huddersfield-based firm that opened an office in Leeds in 2018 and in Pontefract this year, saw revenues rise from £2.4m for the year ending June 30 2018 to £2.9m in its latest financial year.

The 71-strong team serves clients in the region and across the UK. Its specialisms include family, private client and property law.

Emma Pearmaine, managing director of Ridley & Hall, said: "We have had a really busy 12 months across all our practice areas, with property performing particularly strongly - turnover increased by 31% in residential work and by 21% in commercial. Our family team also saw revenues grow by 18% and private client rose by 10%.

"As well as investing in our IT and processes to help us operate as efficiently as possible, over the last year we have also spent time developing our career progression plans to ensure that we attract and retain talent.

"For the first time, we have appointed associates, introduced a formal process for partner applications and opened up both associate and partner applications to non-lawyers within the team."

Over the last year, solicitor Laura Milburn and personal assistant Nicky Butterworth were both promoted to associates in the care team; solicitor Ashley Sowerby became an associate in residential property; and HR and operations manager Tracey Armitage, solicitor Vicky Ridge and solicitor David Amies (commercial

property) all became partners.

A UNIVERSITY of Huddersfield student has joined the IT team at facilities management firm Core Facility Services after impressing bosses during her summer internship.

Computer science student Bryony Rastrick will continue to work part-time on the service desk at Core while she completes her studies.

Core managing director Colette Watts said: "Bryony has been a real asset to the team over the summer and we are really excited that she will be staying with us, fitting her hours in around her studies."

Bryony, who has been helping Core's clients resolve their IT, server and email issues, said: "Not only will the skills I am learning here help me with my studies but I am also building first-hand experience in computing, learning more each day.

"Working at Core and joining such a friendly and welcoming IT team has really built my confidence and is developing my IT skills, communication and interpersonal skills."

ENJO, which specialises in natural cleaning products and has its UK warehouse in Huddersfield, has been named as the winner of the Sustainability Award at the 2019 UK Direct Selling Awards.

The national awards are hosted by the Direct Selling Association (DSA), the industry body for direct-to-consumer retail.

The awards recognise the best individuals, teams and companies in

the industry, which includes many well-known and much-loved household names; brands such as Avon, Neal's Yard Remedies Organic, Usborne Books at Home and The Body Shop at Home.

Direct selling is a £2.67 billion industry in the UK and the latest market data shows that the sector is enjoying a renaissance, with turnover increasing by 27% last year. Over 563,000 people work in the sector.

The Sustainability Award is awarded to the company best demonstrating people, projects, products and organisations that together are redefining what it means to be a sustainable business.

ENJO UK submitted an award entry which demonstrated its commitment to sustainability, recycling and re-using, alongside showcasing its chemical-free cleaning products that aim to reduce plastic waste and chemical residues in waterways.

PR and marketing agency, KC Communications, has won an award in the "economy" category at the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce's Raising the Bar awards.

The awards recognise businesses that have shown their commitment to social responsibility.

KC Communications' efforts to improve the economy of Huddersfield in the past year has seen the agency carry out several initiatives, including; organising and implementing

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Huddersfield Business Week, fundraising to put several young people through a coding workshop to help close the skills gap, and a business start-up package worth over £20,000 awarded to a local CIC alongside other Huddersfield-based organisations.

The awards, which took place on November 6 at Leeds Civic Hall, saw a range of businesses across Yorkshire, including Leeds, Bradford and York, come together to celebrate the efforts of businesses in the region to create a better place.

KC Communications was also shortlisted in the "community" category.

Katrina Cliffe, founder and managing director of KC Communications, said: "The team has worked so hard this year to bring these initiatives to life for the benefit of our local community and economy, so it is fantastic to receive recognition for that."

YORKSHIRE'S largest independent vehicle-hire firm has raised £3,013 for local charity Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.

As part of the charity's first Dragon Boat Race, Arrow Self Drive organised two teams of 11 employees from its Huddersfield and Wakefield depots.

Donning fancy dress outfits, team Wakefield's Cowboys took on the Huddersfield depot's Indians, with the Huddersfield team winning the accolade for best fancy dress.

Collectively the depots raised the most out of the 12 businesses which took part at Pugneys Country Park, Wakefield.

Amanda Crowther, marketing executive for Arrow Self Drive, said: "Forget Me Not Children's Hospice has been a charity which we have been proud to support for 11 years now.

"Family, team and supporting the local community are values which are an important part of Arrow Self Drive and

this fantastic charity is close to our heart.

"We're incredibly grateful to the local businesses and people who sponsored our teams in the Dragon Boat Race and helped us raise such an incredible amount."

Established in 1988, family-run business Arrow Self Drive delivers safe, sustainable and affordable road transport to hundreds of customers across the region.



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Linette Isaacs, founding director, ENJO UK with the DSA Sustainability Award



Huddersfield University student Bryony Rastrick has joined the IT team at Core Facility Services. PIC: Mark Flynn

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Katrina Cliffe, founder and managing director of KC Communications, accepting the award

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Emma Pearmaine, managing director of Ridley & Hall

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AWARD-WINNING Huddersfield communications agency Scriba PR has welcomed an experienced senior account manager - growing its workforce to double figures for the first time in its history.

Eleanor Cropper is the tenth significant appointment for the thriving Lindley firm, bringing years of vital B2B public relations expertise from a breadth of well-known organisations in the industry - including internationally-facing Grayling, and Yorkshire integrated firm, Finn.

Providing high-quality client relations, engineering trade media opportunities and creating engaging written and social media content, Eleanor's corporate comms expertise covers many sectors relating to Scriba's specialisms such as construction, finance, law and recycling.

On her appointment, the 29-year-old said: "Scriba's knowledge of the industries I specialise in plays to my strengths.

"I want to bring my B2B expertise to the forefront, in order to continue achieving the high standards the team sets itself each day.

"I find PR more rewarding when you can build a brand from the ground up and make noise in an interesting sector.

"I enjoy untapping the potential that businesses have, and getting my teeth into establishing them as a force to be reckoned with in their industries.

"The team has been incredibly friendly and welcoming since I've joined, and I can see how hungry and ambitious each of my colleagues are.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenge and helping Scriba to grow even further."

