



empowering business through technology

A very warm welcome to the Eighth issue of the CPW Computing newsletter.

Issue 8

The sun is out again after what seems like endless winter. We're all still wearing our positive faces, but the appalling weather and the economic conditions have been tough for everyone. For us, the New Year brought great excitement, an outright win in the "Business Waste" category of Suffolk "Creating the Greenest County Awards" was a real bonus. Competition was tough and nobody was more surprised than us when our efforts were judged to exceed even those of the Port of Felixstowe! Believing that we have to be "in it to win it" we then worked hard with partners to arrange the Workspace 2010 exhibition in March. Happily there was lots of interest, and a result we're working on several new tenders. And we're keeping fingers crossed for ourselves, our customers, suppliers and indeed the whole industry that good times are coming around again.



Best wishes

Christine Lock

Christine Lock
Managing Director



TAKE IT ON INITIATIVE

If you're thinking of investing in IT projects, then we'd commend the Government-funded "Take it on" initiative to you.

If you've more than 10 employees and fewer than 249, you could receive a 40 percent rebate – worth up to £4,000 – on IT expenditure. Better still is that it's valid for website design, bespoke software and hardware.

The money has been allocated to EEDA, channelled through Business Link, but it's available only through SBS (Supplier Brokerage Service) accredited suppliers. We're delighted to say that we're amongst them.

Incidentally, the funding also applies to digital signage and interactive whiteboards. If training is part of your business or if you receive a lot of visitors, then they're the ideal communication tool. Increasingly, we're supplying them to doctors' surgeries, car showrooms, visitor centres, and many more settings.

Sage Line 50 Update!

Sage has just announced it's end of life policy for Vs. 12 and 13 of their product. Please note that for those customers who need to upgrade to the current version, there is a 20% discount available on all orders that are placed before the end of June 2010.

Please call for further information!

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PRODUCT NEWS

The new Adobe CS5 creative suite has arrived, a dream for all you creative types! What's so great about it, apart from the fact that it is the newest, most innovative, fastest and highest performance ADOBE software so far?

Well...

- Fully automated fill feature
- "Patchmatch" featuring for editing and patching photos
- Better edge definition and masking
- Wet paint colour mixing
- Brush stroke effect

Go green with the new Crucial Ballistix Tracer memory, which uses less energy but there's no compromise on efficiency.

We're pleased to announce the arrival of the new Corel WinZip 14.5 software. This is the world's most popular Zip facility for file compression, sharing, encryption and data back-up.

The new version supports Windows 7 and features an Office 2010 style ribbon interface.

The manufacturers claim that the auto-wipe "shred" facility has been designed to meet US Department of Defence standards. So we'd expect it to be suitable for most of our customers too!

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE

The Computer Hardware Market Report 2010 suggests that the UK market was worth £12.8 billion in 2008, rising more than four percent over the previous year. At the same time, peripherals and add-ons continued to decline.

But the economic downturn caused negative growth in the industry of 3.5 percent in 2009.

It's becoming clear that the market is changing, with a higher proportion being spent on portable equipment and driving notebook sales. It's our experience too that desktop computers are in decline, with more portables now more popular.

For workforces on the move, needing to access and download information whilst out and about, on trains, in hotels or at home, they're ideal, of course.

If you're thinking of spending, then talk to us about the "Take it on" funding initiative. It could well help you invest for less, in new and more efficient ways

SUFFOLK'S GREENEST COUNTY WIN

Given that the IT industry generates more CO2 than aviation, our winning entry in the "Business Waste" category of the Suffolk "Greenest County Awards" was all about reducing the impact we have on the environment.

We try to prolong the life of all redundant (though still working) IT equipment so it benefits others. About 60 percent of equipment returned to us is found a second home. Where it's not possible, we make sure it's recycled so valuable and scarce minerals are reclaimed and elements re-used.

As just one example, we've donated IT equipment to the Waterfront Project which supports unemployed and young offenders in Ipswich. Then we've followed up by networking and supporting it largely free of charge.

We believe that even little changes in our behaviour can make big differences. By reducing energy emissions, saving vital resources and finding a second life for redundant equipment, everyone wins.



LINDEN UPDATE

At last, some progress! As you may know we've been working for a couple of years with the Linden Education Trust to supply and install computer equipment to primary schools in Guyana.

It's been a long haul and finally, we're getting there. We've collected and despatched loads of equipment that might otherwise have gone to landfill, which is a bonus in itself. After problems with clearing customs and then some of the equipment being pilfered, it really has been a saga!

The good news is that Richard and Alan will be going out to Guyana (which is at the northern end of South America) at the end of the summer. It'll be a busy fortnight for them installing, networking and carrying out training at three of the ten schools that we're planning to eventually supply.

Thanks are due to airlines, software houses, clients and friends, and in fact anyone who has helped us make it possible. Be assured, through your efforts, primary school children in one of the world's poorest countries may be able to bring their IT skills up to international standards and take their place on the world stage.



WORKSPACE 2010

Thanks to everyone who came along to our showcase event at Malcolm Andrew Office Solutions. The whole idea was to show what working life could be in the future, and turnout was good. There was great interest in the latest new IT equipment and software, as well as the lovely and very trendy furniture from Malcolm Andrew. Probably what created the biggest stir, though, was A&K's fully recycled and recyclable interactive display equipment. Thanks to Neil Andrew for his kind hospitality.



GREEN ISSUES

Can we commend to you the wonderful work being done by our local BBC radio station in their "Don't be a Tosser" campaign?

Despite their best efforts over the last two years, parts of the county are still blighted by litter, discarded rubbish and graffiti, and it costs a small fortune to clear up.

So, we'd like to add our name to those of Suffolk County Council and other local authorities, Suffolk brewers, Adnams, in supporting this campaign. Posters, stickers are available at 18 different household waste recycling centres across the county.

STAFF NEWS

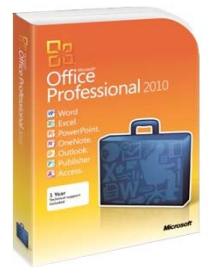
Lots of training going on!

Louisa and others have been learning how to use their time more efficiently by booking into a day-long "making the minutes count" in a course called "Communicating with Clarity".

Expect great things in the future! Our engineers are receiving ESET NOD 32 anti-virus software training updates; Louisa, the voice of CPW has attended a refresher course on presentation skills and Paul Cox has taken part in Suffolk County Council's programme of Health & Safety updates, which are about safe driving, legal responsibilities and more!

Microsoft Office 2010 is nearly here and it uniquely offers you one of the best productivity experiences across the PC, phone and browser.

For businesses, it means helping their people work in a way that's faster, easier, and more intuitive - whether they're on the road or in the office, working solo or as part of a team. For IT, it means utilising a set of smart, easy-to-integrate tools in a security enhanced environment that work with what they have now.



Come and see us speaking at the Suffolk Chamber Lunch - 24th May 2010

Henley, Ipswich ALL MANOR OF EVENTS 24/05/2010 12:00PM to 2:00PM

Manor Farm, Henley Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 0RG



AND FINALLY

Our netball team is simply powering ahead, but its future is not so certain. Whilst we are riding high - 5th in Division 2 of East Suffolk Winter Netball League - declining numbers threaten our future.

What with pregnancies, emigration and work pressures, numbers are dwindling fast. So if any ladies would like to join a friendly group who enjoy playing netball competitively, just let Christine know.

