

News Release Issued: 21 Feb 2005

HYDE PARK ACTION DAY

On Friday February 24th, teams of employees from Ginsters, Walkabout, Plymouth Sound, BAE Systems, University of Plymouth Students' Union, Maitlands Estate Agents, West Sector Neighbourhood Police, BBC, Bailey Partnership, The Wrigley Company, Your Radio, EDF Energy and the staff of Hyde Park School spent the day together, away from their offices and classrooms to work on transforming Hyde Park Junior School. Up to 100 employee volunteers redecorated 6 areas of the school. The work included, hanging a new suspended ceiling, re-laying the hall floor with a new vinyl sports floor, installing a new stage area, redecorating one of the classrooms, painting the corridors and stairwells with murals and canvasses, brightening up the playground with rainbow colours and installing a new reception area. Not only have companies donated product and supplies for all works necessary, contractors have given time, resource and experience in getting all the works done.

Hyde Park Junior School is over 100 years old and, according to the pupils, is looking old and tired in places! It is full to capacity and space is short. The school has recently worked with the parents and the LEA to create a brand new library and a more efficient cloakroom space. Despite the challenges of working within an old Victorian building, a lot of exciting work is happening in the school. In the last 5 years the staff and pupils have raised £15,000 for various charities, as part of the global citizenship programme, reflecting the international nature of the pupil roll, which includes 42 pupils who speak 17 languages between them.

Bernie Evans – Head Teacher of Hyde Park Junior School said, “This project has been just like ‘Challenge Anneka’! Our pupils have been so excited to be involved in the ideas for this redevelopment, and are witnessing fantastic role models showing the power of team work, voluntary service, and generosity. What a brilliant example to set for the next generation!”

Holly Nuttall – Plymouth Cares Manager said, “This challenge has provided a great opportunity for the local community’s businesses to work together to build relationships with each other whilst benefitting the staff and pupils of Hyde Park School.

She continues, “Its also great for companies to work together to make new contacts and learn new skills as well as being able to go home at the end of the day knowing that they’ve really achieved something worthwhile”.

Andy Blacklock – Managing Director of Maitlands Estate Agents said, “Maitlands are delighted to support Plymouth Cares and the tremendous work it does. As a local company we are delighted to give something back to the community we work within, it’s also a great opportunity to actually give our time to something so worthwhile and learn new skills along the way”

“Plymouth Cares” and the team leaders would like to thank Forbo-Nairn, Hayman Construction, Natwest Business Banking, Maitlands Estate Agents, Endsleigh Garden Centre, JNE Construction, B&Q, Tesco, The Range, Jewson, Langage Construction, Fabric Warehouse, Derry’s Department Store, Hylis Ltd, Mitie Engineering, Thorn Lighting, British Gypsum, Gerfloor, Inmac Engineering, Weatherheads Group, Select Ironmongery, Johnstones, Encon Ltd, Palladium, Sainsbury’s Homebase, Sundeala, Ham and Sewell, Hire Station, Unicraft, Cornwall Scrap Store, Tim Dunn Building Contractors, Ian Williams, Francis Electrical and Plumbing, Keyline, Midas Property Services, Clive’s Pies, Ash Carpentry, Stage Electrics.

“Plymouth Cares” is Business in the Community’s employee volunteering scheme that matches community

projects with particular skills and resources of a company and its staff through team building challenges. If you are a company that could benefit from being part of "Plymouth Cares" or a community group/organization with a challenge for us to do, please contact Holly Nuttall – South West Regional Cares Coordinator on 01752 510410.

Notes for Editors

Contacts: Holly Nuttall – Plymouth Cares Manager 01752 510410/07946 842483,

1. Business in the Community is a unique movement in the UK of over 700 member companies, with a further 1600 participating in our programmes and campaigns. We operate through a network of 98 local business-led partnerships, as well as working with 45 global partners.
Our purpose is to inspire, challenge, engage and support business in continually improving its positive impact on society.
2. Cares is the Number 1, business led employee-volunteering programme in the UK and a Business in the Community initiative.
3. Membership of Business in the Community is a commitment to action and to the continual improvement of a company's impact on society.
4. Our members commit to:
 - Integrate, manage and measure responsible business practice throughout their business
 - Impact through collaborative action to tackle disadvantage
 - Inspire, innovate and lead by sharing learning and experience
5. Together, our member companies employ over 15.7 million people in over 200 countries worldwide. In the UK, our members employ over 1 in 5 of the private sector workforce.
6. Further information about Business in the Community can be found at the website www.bitc.org.uk.

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