

It is hard to believe that Eastbourne Youth Radio is broadcasting on 87.7FM for the ninth year and is already giving thought to 10th Anniversary celebrations. In addition, it is now possible to 'tune in' via the website at www.eyr.org.uk.

Launched as a pilot scheme in November 2001 with 16 schools and 1000 pupils broadcasting for 27 hours the project has expanded each year. It now broadcasts over three days and involves closer to 2500 young people aged 5-19 across the Eastbourne and Hailsham area.

The project was developed by Eastbourne EBP in association with Sussex Downs College and Inverse Communications and has now become a national benchmark for similar projects including Norwich and Kendal. It is now a registered project in Global Entrepreneurship Week and has received recognition

from both SEEDA and the Institute of Education Business Excellence.

The roots of EYR are very much in the community and engaging schools and colleges with businesses and other organisations who also help sponsor the project. It provides an 'extended classroom' and an opportunity for young people to explore and interact with the wider community. A note in the 2003 evaluation document is still very true today, "EYR is not about giving young people a chance to play at being radio presenters. It is about giving them a platform for practicing a whole range of skills, and talents useful in all walks of life, whether it's writing, researching, interviewing, performing, organising material, or just having ideas and seeing results".

In addition to developing skills and contributing to curriculum work via partnership working, EYR helped to raise awareness of

the other SRB projects and local community initiatives. It has also provided significant media coverage for Eastbourne and individual participants. This is still very true today and this souvenir from Sussex Newspapers is another example of EYR's continued success.

EYR contributes to a number of media courses, including the new diploma, and for some students has marked the start of their progression into professional broadcasting, including Chris Bailey who is now with Bright FM in Burgess Hill. For thousands of others it has left them with a lasting memory of working on a fun project with some very real learning.

It is with these principles still very much in mind that the organising team at Eastbourne EBP and Sussex Downs College look forward to planning 10th Anniversary celebrations in November 2010.

Young Broadcasters Interview Youngest Ocean Rower

Polegate School will once again join Eastbourne Youth Radio, organised by Eastbourne EBP and Sussex Downs College, on Friday 20th November. The theme for Polegate's one-hour slot, sponsored by PJ Products, at 1.00pm on 87.7FM and www.eyr.org.uk, is 'Pirate Radio'.

Four men, 3,500 miles and just a wooden rowing boat was the inspiration for pupils to interview Matt Hellier who made history when he became the first team of four to row from Australia to Mauritius. Not content with breaking this record they became the youngest ever crew to row across any ocean, with Matt being the youngest. Between them they have 30 years rowing experience. They succeeded in raising thousands of pounds for the Stroke Association.

They braved 50 ft waves, physical

exhaustion and mental fatigue to win the race. It took them 68 days, 19 hours and 40 minutes to complete the race in their 29 ft long boat. They left Australia together with nine other international crews. There have only been four successful crossings prior to this race, which proves how difficult this adventure was.

Claire Martin-O'Donoghue, Deputy Headteacher, was delighted when Matt agreed to be interviewed by Polegate school children for their programme. "He has shown dedication and commitment in order to complete the challenge and this makes him a fantastic role model. We hope our pupils will see that persistence pays off and that meeting Matt will be inspirational for them as they consider how much can be achieved at such a young age through hard work and dedication", said Claire.



St Wilfrid's Hospice & Schools Working Together



Pupils from Hailsham Community College with St Wilfrid's Hospice Day Therapy Clinic patients.

Enterprising students from Hailsham Community College are working with St Wilfrid's Hospice to raise vital funds for this local charity. The innovative students are pictured here with Hospice's Day Therapy Clinic patients who have been busily painting stars in preparation for St Wilfrid's Christmas Magic event in Eastbourne on December 5 and 6, 2009.

HCC is working closely with St Wilfrid's on the coming Eastbourne Youth Radio show, 87.7FM, with their programme being broadcast at 2pm on 20 November. They will be producing a fast paced show which will include an interview with a Hospice patient and nurse to educate listeners in the work of the Hospice within the community.

Claire Umney from St Wilfrid's Hospice said: "We are delighted to be working with HCC not only with the EYR show but with all their fundraising work. The students are imaginative, forward-thinking and exceptionally enterprising and we are thrilled that they are prepared to use their skills to help us."

The HCC students recently had a tour of the Hospice to give them further understanding of the work that the hospice does. St Wilfrid's Hospice would like to thank these students for their innovation and enthusiasm with all their money making ideas and would like to invite other schools to take part in St Wilfrid's Working Together scheme. For further information please contact Claire on 01323 437422 or email claire.umney@stwhospice.org

Bags of talent



Claire Watt-Smith was just 23 years-old when she founded BoBelle. She specialises in supplying fairly traded and hand-made fashion accessories using eel skin leather, a by-product of the food industry in Korea. According to Greek Mythology, eel skin leather is thought to bring good luck and love.

During her Masters, Claire was fascinated by Business Ethics and focused her thesis on ethical retailing. Her dream was to set up her own boutique.

In just 12 months she was featured in magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Look, Eve, Business Review, Style, and the BBC and was asked to join a campaign by an international charity for late 2009. She has sold her handbags and accessories in Topshop and Our Eco Shop in Notting Hill.

She said: "This is a huge honour to not only work alongside such prestigious brands, but to also raise money for such a worthy charity. Topshop was a huge success and milestone for BoBelle."

The Entrepreneurs Network, Striding Out, recognised her as one of the Top 100 Entrepreneurs and she has been asked to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Listen to Claire's interview only on EYR!

Budding Scientists visit Observatory for EYR

Eager pupils from Shinewater Primary School swapped the classroom for the laboratory when they recently visited the Observatory Science Centre. The visit was part of the preparation work for their programme on Eastbourne Youth Radio at 87.7FM and www.eyr.org.uk which will be broadcast on 18th November at 12pm.

The team spent an hour exploring the different activities on offer at the centre, both indoors and out, including the water and light activities and some of the large-scale hands-on investigative activities. "Extraordinary! It's just so different to learning science at school", commented one youngster afterwards.

They saw students from another primary school that were also on a visit. Some of them were taking part in a group session building bridges and some were getting very wet on the water activities. There were also older students with severe special needs who had been enjoying their visit and were browsing in the shop.

The team then went indoors to meet Jo Harris, the Education/Operations Manager for the centre. They had prepared questions to ask her about the centre's aims and activities (the recording of this discussion will be played on the show). They found out about the wide range of



activities on offer, including half-term workshops for children and astronomy evenings aimed at adults. They also found out a little about the history of the buildings as part of the Royal Greenwich Observatory. They told her they were very impressed with what they had seen and expressed a desire to visit again very soon!

The Science Centre are also supporting Science In-Bloom 2010 – another event for primary schools organised by Eastbourne EBP in association with Eastbourne Borough Council, and coinciding with the launch of Science and Engineering Week 2010. Invitations to take part have recently been sent to local schools.

Pupils Go All Hi Di Hi on EYR!

Two pupils at St. Andrew's, Meads are very excited as they have a very special guest to interview on their show for Eastbourne Youth Radio.

Who can forget those wonderful TV 'holiday' moments as we were treated to the morning call of "Hi Di Hi – hello campers" followed by a day of mayhem and laughter. Central to all the action was the much-loved actress Su Pollard who is currently on tour with Annie.

Su is friend of one of the parents at the school and didn't hesitate to agree to be interviewed on EYR when asked. Eleanor Hester Lock and Jess Lamb, both in Year 6, will be finding out about the tour and the trials and tribulations of being an actress as well as lots of other fun questions. Expect plenty of laughs and reminiscing!

The programme is being broadcast at 3.00pm on Thursday 19th November (also Women's Enterprise Day) on both 87.7FM and www.eyr.org.uk. Make sure you listen in – don't miss it.



Digby Jones

From July 2007 to October 2008 Digby Jones served in the UK government as minister of state for trade and investment. During his 15 months in Ministerial office he made 45 overseas visits, travelling to 31 different countries and meeting with the world's top business leaders and politicians.

Digby was made a partner at Edge and Ellison, the law firm in 1984. He was responsible for developing the firm's London presence and establishing its representation in many European countries and several states in America.

In 1988 he joined KPMG as vice chairman of corporate finance, acting as close adviser to many public companies across the UK. From 2000 he served as director general of the CBI, the Confederation of British Industry. During his appointment he took the British business message across the world.

In 2007 he served as the UK's Skills Envoy, campaigning for employers to raise the level of skills of all their employees to Level 2 by 2010 - during this period he also linked with the then National EBP Network (now Institute of Education Business Excellence).

He accepted a lifetime peerage in the House of Lords where he now sits on the cross benches and is known as Lord Jones of Birmingham.

. . . and a big thanks to Waitrose

Eastbourne Youth Radio and Sussex Downs College would like to thank Waitrose and their customers for choosing us for their November Community Matters charity. A share of £1,000 will be donated from Waitrose's profits to us and two other local charities, chosen by staff and customers.

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