

Bigger and better a growing trend for Village companies

Picture: Andrew Higgins GLAH20150319A-003_C



Jeff Stock, MD of Stock Sweepers, is not the only person running a business on Mitcheldean's Vantage Point Business Village with something to smile about. His roadsweeper manufacturing firm is among several companies expanding on the site. See our double-page feature, **P2&3**

Jeff Stock with a Stock Sweepers roadsweeper

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The Business **B**

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New sponsor sends powerful message

Pictures: Antony Thompson, Thousand Word Media

BY BUSINESS REPORTER BEV HAWES

CLARKSON Evans is the new kit sponsor for one of the region's leading women's football teams as it kicks off its campaign to attract more female electrical apprentices.

The electrical contractor is supporting Gloucester City Ladies' FC and hopes to raise the profile of careers in the industry for women.

The team's eye-catching yellow and black strip, which now matches their male counterparts for the first time, is adorned with the distinctive Clarkson Evans logo.

Clarkson Evans is one of the sponsors of the *Echo* and *Citizen's* 2015 Apprenticeship Awards, which is highlighting the opportunities for young men and women to learn skills.

Gloucester City Ladies' FC are flying high this season and are currently top of the table in the South West Women's football league. Their latest 4-1 victory against Bridgwater secured them promotion into the FA Women's Premier League Southern



Left, Lindsey Young, Clarkson Evans HR & Training director, with captain Helen Wood from GCLFC

Division. Clarkson Evans specialises in wiring new homes for the UK's major housing developers, wiring around one in 10 of all new properties built in England and Wales last year. The firm's Gloucester branch is located at the Meteor Business Park, Staverton, with staff wiring new homes on housing development sites across the county.

The firm has a number of female electricians and apprentices but is keen to attract even greater

numbers to apply to join the company. "We're keen to encourage more women to apply for one of our electrical apprenticeships - our current female staff are integral members of our team on site and help to prove that being an electrician should not be perceived as a male-only profession," said Lindsey Young, HR and training director at Clarkson Evans. "We're proud to begin our association with Gloucester City

Ladies' Football Club - they are one of the best women's football teams in the South West and we wish them the best of luck for the rest of the season," added Mrs Young.

Clarkson Evans' award-winning training, strong team spirit and excellent career prospects mean the company's local apprenticeship opportunities are in high demand.

The company anticipates it will recruit up to 50 apprentices nationwide this year. Would-be apprentices need to have a natural knack for all things practical and the dedication and drive to work alongside a team of committed electricians. They need to be aged 18 or over, hold a full driving licence and have good GCSE grades in English and maths.

Visit clarkson-evans.co.uk or follow the company on Twitter @clarkson-evans. Clarkson Evans' branch network stretches from Newquay to Crawley and Southampton to Birmingham. The company's sister company, Clarkson Evans Training, has a proven track record in training electricians, with more than 1,500 professionals attending its courses last year.



See page 7 for more on the 2015 *Echo* and *Citizen* Apprenticeship Awards.

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