

Business

with
Antony
Clay



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Industry giant takes over Yorks firm

JAPANESE industrial giant Sharp Electronics has bought Wakefield-based firm IOT (Holdings) plc.

It will operate as a subsidiary of Sharp.

IOT has 173 employees. It will continue to trade under its current name and keep the same management team, says Sharp.

Paul Molyneux, Sharp UK managing director, said: "IOT's position as a very stable, profit-focused business with a strong service-based culture is the result of an approach Sharp are keen to learn from and pursue aggressively. We bring the strength of a global brand and an ongoing commitment to product development that will deliver future market opportunities".

Martin McCarney, IOT chief executive, said clients would benefit.

Spreading the word about trading fairly



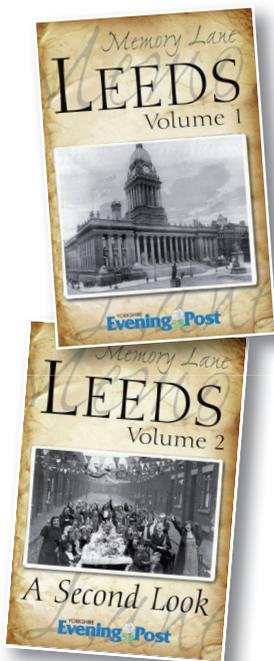
LOTS TO TALK ABOUT: South Leeds community radio interview with Blessing from Harehills, Sadiyah from Beeston and Shazia from Harehills

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Young people aim to be social entrepreneurs

Project set up by charity

BY ANTONY CLAY
BUSINESS REPORTER

YOUNG entrepreneurs with an interest in changing the world are showing they can do business that helps others.

The young people aged 17-23 from Beeston, Middleton, Harehills and Belle Isle are working to set up an ethical trading enterprise as part of the Not Just Us programme.

The community-based youth enterprise scheme has been launched by charity the Lorna Young Foundation to help young people from deprived neighbourhoods become the new social entrepreneurs.

Not Just Us teaches business skills and provides training in enterprise whilst increasing global awareness. The young people are supported to run

their own social enterprise in which they link directly with a producer community in a developing country.

The Not Just Us Leeds team held their first event at Hillside Enterprise Centre in Beeston during Fairtrade Fortnight where they sold ethical products. They also appeared on a live broadcast for South Leeds Radio. In May they will attend a trading workshop with peers from Kenya.

Laura Smith, coordinator of the Lorna Young Foundation, said: "We wanted to provide this opportunity for youth enterprise training in the community, working with young people who may not necessarily be high academic achievers or who may not go to the best schools but who may well be the ethical entrepreneurs of tomorrow."

"This programme connects young people to the business world by exposing them to successful entrepreneurs and setting up work placements within ethical businesses."



SPREADING THE WORD: NJU members at a fair trade event at Leeds University. Pictured are Danny from Middleton, JoJo from Belle Isle, Ross from Hunslet and Blessing from Harehills

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