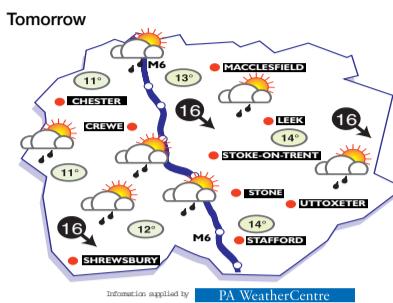


Info Desk

Weather



TONIGHT: There will be plenty of cloud around overnight, but it will remain dry. There is an increasing chance of cloud breaking after midnight, allowing clear spells to develop. With a light northerly breeze, it will turn rather chilly under clear skies. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TOMORROW: A bright start. However, it will turn hazy towards midday, and cloud will spread in during the afternoon. Rain and drizzle will reach all areas before the end of the afternoon. Brisk north-westerly winds. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Air Pollution: Rural: 4; Towns and Cities: 4; Roadside: 3. Low (1-3), Moderate (4-6), High (7-9), Very High (10).

Hours of Darkness: 9.12pm to 4.58am. Data supplied by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Chemists

AUDLEY: Co-op, Church Street, 5.30-6.30pm.
CHEADLE: Ratcliffe, High Street, 5-6pm.
CREWE: Williams, Nantwich Road, 9-8pm.
ECCLESALL: Eccleshall Pharmacy, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.
ENDON: McMullen, Station Road, 5.30-6.30pm.
GOLDENHILL: Goldenhill Pharmacy, Anne Street, 5.30-6.30pm.
GREAT HAYWOOD: Haywood, Trent Close, 5.30-6.30pm.
HARTSHILL: Hartshill Pharmacy, Hartshill Road, 5.30-6pm.
NANTWICH: Williams, High Street, 9am-5.30pm.
SHELTON: Lloyds, Stoke Road, 9am-10pm.
STONE: Birchill & Watson, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.
TEAN: Lawton, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.
UTTOXETER: Boots, High Street, 5.30-6.30pm.

Shares

Prices at 9.30am

PRIVATISATION		CobraBioMan	58 +2.5
Alliance & L 833 +5.5	Cookson	35.5 +0.5
Aviva 604.5 +3.5	Dechra	194 nc
Brad & B 302.5 +0.5	Goodwin	340 nc
Brit Airways 244.25 +1	Halstead (J)	505 nc
Br Energy 319.5 +1	J Matthey	914 nc
BAA 586 +3	Smart Grp	9.5 nc
BG Grp 406.25 +0.5	K3BsTechGp	75 nc
BP 538.5 +0.5	N Foods	152.5 -1.25
BT Grp 201.5 +0.25	Pearson	640.5 +3.5
Corus Grp 44.75 +0.75	Portmeirion	155 nc
Base Grp 0.10 nc	St M'wen	394.5 +4.75
Centrica 219.5 -2.75	UCM Group	68 -0.5
HBOS 787.5 +4	W'ford Wd	£0.03 +0.01
Lloyd TSB 458 +4	A J Worth	21 +0.5
MMO2 116.25 nc	FTSE Index	Up 13.1 at 4874.3. Prices (for selling) supplied by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd of Hanley.
R Royce 245.25 +1		
NatGrid 510.75 +1.5		
Severn Trt 971 -1		
Int Power 185.75 nc		
Viridian 743.5 -3.5		
LOCAL COMPANIES		Tourist Rates	
B'ford Ord 0.15 nc	Eurozone 1.41 euro	
Churchill 207 nc	America 1.83 dollars	

National Lottery

Last night's Lotto Daily numbers were: 10, 11, 16, 19, 21, 26, 27.

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University honour for Portmeirion founder

PORTMEIRION'S founder and renowned ceramics designer has received an honorary fellowship from the institution where she once studied.

Susan Williams-Ellis, who set up the Stoke-on-Trent company with her husband more than 50 years ago, was awarded the honour from the University of the Arts in London, at a special ceremony in the grounds of the world-famous village in North Wales, built by her father Clough Williams-Ellis.

The 86-year-old, whose vision and commitment helped to create

the company, which has sales outlets in 34 countries, was given the honour by Sir Michael Bichard, Rector of the University of the Arts.

She said: "I was very flattered and even more so when the Rector agreed to come all the way to see me at Portmeirion in North Wales to re-create the ceremony that will be held in my absence in London later this month."

Mrs Williams-Ellis studied ceramics at the institution, formerly known as the Chelsea School of Arts.

Her tutors included Graham

Sutherland and Henry Moore, who helped to develop her innate feeling for three-dimensional shape and form, which she translated into seminal ceramic designs such as Totem, Samarcand and Magic City.

In 1972 she launched The Botanic Garden, which became a bestseller and helped to promote the company from relative obscurity to the successful operation it is today.

Mrs Williams-Ellis set up the business with her husband Euan in 1953, when they took over a souvenir shop in the Welsh village

of Portmeirion. Despite making a loss, a second Portmeirion shop was opened in London's Pont Street.

The designer gave Portmeirion its style, with unusual shapes and bold illustrations, which now make it increasingly collectable.

She said: "The people of Stoke are really the nicest people one could ever meet, and their hard work has established Portmeirion."

Portmeirion was floated on the Stock Exchange in 1988 and currently employs 540 people in Fenton, Longton and Stoke.

Teenager and star help launch wristband scheme

Banding together in support of hospice

BY ELLIE BANKS

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy who raised almost £13,000 for a hospice which cared for his terminally ill mum is urging other teenagers to show their support for the Douglas Macmillan Hospice in a wristband campaign.

Chris Inskip, of Meir Heath, lost his mum, Pam, to cancer in May 2003.

Since then he has worked tirelessly to raise money for the hospice in Blurton which cared for his mum in her final days.

Yesterday, he teamed up with TV presenter and actor Jonathan Wilkes to officially launch the charity's campaign to wear its new wristband.

The yellow bands, which cost £1 each, aim to raise funds and increase awareness of the hospice, which provides palliative care for adults with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

Chris, with the help of his two best friends Karl Podmore and Ross Pitt, also aged 16, has been selling the wristbands — which double up as a fashion statement — at Sandon High School to increase support of the hospice.

He said: "The bands are really popular at the moment and there are loads around that don't stand for anything, so it is great to sell some for a good cause."

Chris approached the hospice with his father, Fred, in July 2004 to offer to help raise cash and organised events including fancy dress horse rides, karaoke nights and a cycle ride in Snowdonia in Wales to raise almost £13,000 in just three months.

He said: "The hospice couldn't do anything for my mum but they



FUND-RAISER: Chris Inskip has been selling the yellow bands for £1

Pictures: Steve Bould

did make her comfortable which is something that the hospital couldn't do.

"They took the strain off her face and I wanted to do something to show how grateful I was."

Chris, who has two older brothers, twins Matt and Rich, aged 22, continued: "I would like to say a big thank-you to my family and everyone who has helped to support the hospice."

He recently won a Diana Princess of Wales Award for Young People for his outstanding achievements in raising money. Community fund-raiser at the

hospice, Liz Clarke, said: "Chris is such a strong and amazing character who has done an incredible amount for the hospice."

Jonathan Wilkes, who is currently starring in Tommy at the Regent Theatre, said: "It is absolutely fantastic, Chris is doing a great job and I wish him all the best."

The wrist bands went on sale at the hospice and in hospice shops last week and 2,000 have already been sold.

Mrs Clarke added: "We knew the bands would be popular but we had no idea they would sell so



quickly. The initial stock has almost run out but we have ordered plenty more in."

ellie.banks@thesentinel.co.uk

Waterford Wedgwood axes 1,800 jobs

From Page 1

Wedgwood and Royal Doulton, Waterford Wedgwood also unveiled plans for another £68 million rights issue to fund the restructuring as well ease the company's cash position.

Chairman Sir Anthony O'Reilly and fellow director Peter Goulandris will underwrite the issue, which will offer shareholders the right to buy 11 new shares at 4.1 pence for every seven that

they own. The current market price is 2.7 pence a share.

Richard Platt, regional director of the Hanley office of stockbroker Brewin Dolphin, said the issue could allow Sir Anthony and Mr Goulandris's families to build a stake of more than 50 per cent — they already own 24.6 per cent of the group's shares.

Mr Platt said: "The cost of the new shares is higher than those already in the market so it is unlikely that shareholders will

take up the offer being made. It means that the two families can build their stakes in the business and take a share of 53 per cent, if no one else takes up their share."

Sir Anthony said: "While I very

much regret the job losses, these changes are vital to ensure the long term prosperity of this historic company and its key heritage plants in Ireland, England and Germany as we face increasing competition from low cost economies in Asia and elsewhere."

"The task is clear but the challenge is great: we must ensure that our cost base matches revenue levels so that the company is returned to sustained profitability."

News comes seven weeks after the Irish-based luxury goods group issued its fifth profit warning in two years. It said its sales would be six per cent down for the year to April having been hit by a slump in the value of the dollar and falling sales in the U.S.