

2006 qualified as a solicitor within the capital group, which specialises in wills, probate.

University graduate Becky Hunton, left, has been appointed sales and marketing executive at printing.com in Middlesbrough. Becky joins from Barclaycard and has a background in marketing, sales and customer service. In her new role she will be responsible for developing marketing strategy, attracting new clients, managing accounts and public relations activities.

In this column send a picture, brief bio and a contact name and telephone number to Business Desk, Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough, TS1 3AZ or email the picture attachment to businessdesk@teessidegazette.co.uk.

The issue

THE ISSUE:

STOCKTON, Middlesbrough and Darlington are among the UK's top 100 home-based business hotspots, new research has revealed.

Enterprise Nation's 2009 Home Business Report showed there were 2,696 such companies in these three districts and 2.8m in the UK - a 33% increase on the 2007 figure of 2.1m.

In the North-east, 6,250 home businesses generate an estimated £6.7bn for the regional economy, the report said, with more than 60% of UK businesses now starting from home.

With almost one in 10 people in the North-east out of work due to recession-hit bosses having to cut costs, many people have used redundancy as the spur to start their own venture.

The report, sponsored by BT, said nearly a third of the businesses surveyed (31.5%) were started during 2009.



HOME WORK: Left to right are John Boddy, Kerrie Murray, Charlotte

being close to the family (33%), according to the report.

Figures from the World Bank show that it takes 13 days to set up a business in the UK compared with the European average of 32 days - supporting claims by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that the UK is the easiest place in the EU to start a business.

The top rate of corporation tax in the UK is 28%, the lowest in the G7.

THE REACTION:

multi-purpose office next to his house gives him the best of both worlds. He gave up his job at confectionery giant Mars after spending too much time away from his family.

He says: "Now I can concentrate and focus on what I need to do but at the same time be close to my family."

KERRIE MURRAY launched Eaglescliffe home accessories business, Pins and Ribbons, from her home in 2006 to keep overheads down. As revenues grew - annual turnover is around £100,000 - she took on industrial premises

dates

- 14th:** AWC Insurance Business Referral working meeting, O'Grady's Hotel, Redcar, Tees. Contact: 01642 492776
- 15th:** All Endeavour networking meeting, The Sporting Ground, Middlesbrough, 6.45-8.30am. Cost: £10. Contact: endeavour@teessidegazette.co.uk
- 16th:** Dual Concept Marketing event - Tees Business in 59 Minutes, Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield, Middlesbrough, 10.30-12.30pm. Cost: £10. Contact: teesside@teessidegazette.co.uk
- 17th:** 20 mins networking and 19 mins of presentation, www.dcmforbusiness.co.uk, 0191 256 6235
- 18th:** Summit, Hilton Newcastle Gateshead, 9am-12pm. Contact: 020 8652 3887
- 19th:** Design & Marketing Summit, Middlesbrough Town Hall Crypt, 10am-12pm. Contact: info@designandmarketing.co.uk