



Business Development

Beginning with one site in Denbigh in 1997, Lock Stock Self Storage Limited now have 24 sites across Chester and North Wales holding 3,971 shipping containers. Our sites can be used by both businesses and members of the public.

Members of the public often use the containers during house moves, renovations, to park vehicles or simply to have a safe secure storage area outside of the home.

With SME's in the UK having a combined income of over 2.3 trillion pounds the self-Storage industry can have very positive economic benefits.

The SSA annual survey 2022 reports that 'Self storage stores themselves may not employ many people. However while not direct employers self-storage stores are strong supporters of local businesses. Many are viewed as business incubators assisting local businesses transition from family, home based operations to larger scale operators themselves employing more staff'.



Over the lifespan of Lock Stock Self Storage Limited the facilities have been used by 8,134 businesses and they provide a much-needed base for businesses to start off or grow.

Many businesses use the containers when starting up as they cannot afford more permanent premises but still need storage to allow them to grow. They also use them when they are in a transitional period and require extra storage space but not necessarily bigger premises. These businesses because of their allowed growth go onto expand and employ more people resulting in a lot of indirect employment due to our sites.

Speaking when visiting the Llandudno site, Ken Skates, the Welsh Government Minister for the Economy and North Wales, said:

"I'm very impressed with what I've seen at Lock Stock. The company has 18 strategic sites with more in the pipeline supporting business start-ups as well as offering flexible storage options. The innovative facilities are offering embryo businesses a low cost introduction from which they can grow to become prosperous operations and hopefully employers. I look forward to seeing the business develop over the coming years."

– Article Attached.



On average across our sites the percentage for business use is at 38%. The capacity for the Porthmadog site will be 168 containers this equates to business occupation of 64 containers. As each one of these businesses' employee at least one person, though often this is a much higher number, it means there is a minimum of 64 jobs attributed to the facility.

Our self-storage units can also benefit small to medium businesses. Self-storage units are an alternative solution for businesses to grow and become a serious competitor within their sector or industry. With storage spaces, businesses have the option to free up space, or simply expand their unit to accommodate a growing workforce without the hassle of upgrading offices.

Many companies having taken the advantage of using our facility to start up go on to take on Industrial Units and employ more people from within the community. For example:

45 Gallon Drums initially started up in his back garden whilst hiring one of our storage containers, eight months and 60 BBQ sales later his bright idea mushroomed into a burgeoning business that has outgrown his back garden and the storage unit he rented to take over new premises in Saltney.

– Article Attached.

Benefits to Local Contractors

Lock Stock are very aware of the importance of using local contractors and always endeavour to “use local” when setting up and running sites.

As well as this the facility provides benefits and business referrals for many surrounding local businesses such as Van Hire, Removals, House Clearance, Packaging. For example we have a removal company who we recommend to customers in the Mold area when customers ask if we are aware of anyone. Prowen have used our facility since 2013 and it has very much been a two-way business relationship:

“Lock Stock frequently refer customers to us who have booked storage with them therefore increasing our business activity levels. Due to their flexible terms it is perfect for us to use their facility for extra storage as and when required as you are not tied into any lengthy contracts. This has enabled us to grow our business, expanding into other areas and employ extra people.”

– Letter of support attached.

Benefits to Local Community

Community Groups often find our facilities very useful for storing equipment and kit. Good relationships with local communities are always encouraged. Each site has a dedicated regional manager to ensure customer service is met to the highest standard. These managers often identify ways to help local community groups and charities. Attached are an example of some PR stories that Lock Stock have carried out and advertised in order to support local charities and community groups.



Attachments

BUSINESSES

CHARITIES AND SPONSORSHIP



In the press

Minister visit to Llandudno



An innovative North Wales container storage company is blazing a trail for two major business start-up initiatives in Wales's two biggest cities, according to Welsh Economy Secretary Ken Skates.

The proposed schemes in Cardiff and Swansea will see new start-ups housed in converted shipping containers. And to get a flavour of how the concept could work Mr Skates paid a visit to one of the UK's biggest container storage companies, Lock Stock Self Storage at their Llandudno Junction site.

Their storage parks across North and Mid Wales and the border counties of Cheshire and Shropshire are host to almost 1,000 small businesses – over 200 of them at their largest storage park at the Tre Marl Industrial Estate, Llandudno.

Nick Powell, who started the business with his brother, Shon, in Denbigh in 1998 showed the Economy Secretary around the site and explained: "I don't think of this as a storage park but as an enterprise centre. Containers are a fantastic option for many people starting up in business who need somewhere to hold stock because they're affordable so they're not over-committing themselves financially. They can go ahead and launch without the worry about whether it's going to work. Our units are ideal starting points for small and emerging businesses, or traders working from home, that cannot, or do not want to take the commitment that comes with taking on an industrial unit. Containers are versatile and flexible and there are no business rates or service charges and with three different sizes of units they're ideal whether people are looking to grow or to downsize. Often start-up businesses can easily operate from a storage unit and that is one reason we plan our sites very carefully so that our tenants can easily access their units 24/7."

Among the businesses which operate from Lock Stock's containers are a decking firm with a turnover of almost half a million pounds a year, a gift importing company, a café, carpet fitters, joiners, plumbers, a mobile mechanic and a business which exports goods to West Africa.

The Welsh Government is supportive of plans for a 'box parks' in Cardiff's Porth Teigr area and a waterfront development in Swansea, both of which would provide affordable space for start-up firms.

Ken Skates said: *"I'm very impressed with what I've seen at Lock Stock. The company has 18 strategic sites with more in the pipeline supporting business start-ups as well as offering flexible storage options. The innovative facilities are offering embryo businesses a low cost introduction from which they can grow to become prosperous operations and hopefully employers. I look forward to seeing the business develop over the coming years."*

Lock Stock, which employs 18 staff, was launched as an off-shoot of the family's well-known Craig Bragdy ceramic design and installation company in Denbigh.



Minister Ken Skates with Nick Powell

"I'm very impressed with what I've seen at Lock Stock"

Typically tropical – from left, Lock Stock Manager Mike Trow, Nathan Pearson and Rob Randall, of 45 Gallon Drums with their steel drum barbecues and outdoor furniture and artist Sam Porter who painted the storage unit mural behind



Nathan drums up trade after cooking up a bright idea over a lockdown barbecue

When oil drum salesman Nathan Pearson took time out for a pandemic lockdown meeting round the barbecue he hit on the idea that has turbo-charged his company – steel drum barbecues.

Eight months and 60 BBQ sales later his bright idea has mushroomed into a burgeoning business that has outgrown his back garden and the storage unit he rented to take over new premises in Saltney. Now Nathan and his team are turning brand new upright 45-gallon steel drums into barbecues as well as a range of outdoor drum furniture and reconditioning used drums for sale. Instead of the storage unit he rented at Lock Stock Self Storage's River Lane site in Saltney he has bought a 40-foot unit from them to store a supply of the hefty steel drums.

Now thanks to an attractive paint job from mural artist Sam Porter, provides an attractive backdrop to a leisure area perfect for the kind of Friday afternoon barbecue business meeting that launched this success story.

Nathan, from Chester, began in business dealing in waste mineral oil but after selling that operation he saw the potential in the containers and 45 Gallon Drums was born. He said: "Originally it was an on-line business selling the drums and using a storage unit at Lock Stock's site and my back garden but we outgrew that and over a business meeting round the barbie we came up with this idea. We can also make the drums into tables and chairs because they're ideal for outdoor garden furniture, they're tough and durable and they can easily be printed with company logos or designs." "Early this year we had an order for 100 tables from a rum company which was unfortunately cancelled when lockdown came in but I'm hopeful they'll be back. I think the idea is right for the difficult times we're living through because people want to be outdoors because it's easier

to meet up that way and what could be better than to socialise around a barbecue where it's nice and warm."

Mike Trow, Lock Stock Site Manager for North East Wales and Chester, said:

"Nathan has been really inventive and seen a great opportunity here. He used to rent with us but once he saw the opportunity for his business to grow he's moved into these premises just down the road and bought one of our storage units which he's had painted up. It's perfect for him and makes a great backdrop to his outdoor seating and barbecue area."

The drums, which are made locally, are both brand new and reconditioned – the reconditioned drums have previously been lined with plastic bags inside to store fruit juices and other edible liquids before being steam cleaned, de-dented and repainted to look like new again.

Nathan and his assistant, Rob Randall, have plenty of space inside the unit to carry out the conversion work and he now has big plans for the outdoor area with ideas for a barbecue school and even for open-air weekend catering stalls. He said: "We have a network of people with the skills to make this all happen and our plan now is to get a bit more wacky and come up with some more ideas for the space we have here. We've already developed a plancha hotplate to cook on top of the coals and we supply barbecue consumables like charcoal, smoking woods and seasonings.

PROWEN REMOVALS & STORAGE

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25th July, 2022.

Dear Sirs,

We as a company feel a Lock Stock facility is a great addition to any town, it benefits companies like ours as the nature of the business in turn generates business for us.

Lock Stock frequently refer customers to us who have booked storage with them therefore increasing our business activity levels.

Due to their flexible terms it is perfect for us to use their facility for extra storage as and when required as you are not tied into any lengthy contracts. This has enabled us to grow our business, expanding into other areas and employ extra people.

Yours faithfully,

Jan Owen.

PROWEN REMOVAL SERVICES

What our customers say

Q&A with James Neale

Q. Who are you, where are you from? Family, age, aspirations as a youngster?

James Neale, aged 49, Director of James Neale and Son, based at Lock Stock Self Storage, Tre Marl Industrial Estate, in Llandudno Junction, went to Eirias High School, married to Victoria with four children, live in Bryn Y Maen. I came to Colwyn Bay in 1976, aged six, when my family moved here from Birmingham. My father, Richard, came here to take over the North Wales area for Crittalls Windows. He was a glazier and had worked putting the windows into the Post Office Tower in the Sixties.



Q. How long have you been in business? How did your current business get started?

My dad started his own business, Richard Neale and Son, which became James Neale and Son ten years ago so the business is now 40 years old and although we are glaziers and specialise in windows and conservatories our staff include qualified tradesmen so we can carry out most kinds of building work.

Q. What is your day to day role, and what is your title? An average day for you is spent doing what?

I am a director of the business but I am very hands on. I spend a lot of the time measuring jobs up, doing quotes, ordering materials and on site as well as meeting clients. I still fit the occasional pane of glass or do some concreting. It's good for the staff to see that I don't mind digging a hole and it keeps me fit as well.

Q. Where are you based? Plans to expand?

We used to have a yard but people only came there to pay their bills. They can look at the work we do online so we do have an office in Colwyn Bay but the company stores all stock and materials at Lock Stock, Llandudno Junction. There is 24 hour access, articulated lorries can get in here to make deliveries and the site is secure and so are the three containers we rent. We don't have to pay business rates here and so it saves us about £30,000 a year. We are comfortable with the amount of work we can do so we don't have plans to expand.

Q. How many people work there? Are there plans to take on more in the future?

We employ seven people and our staff are excellent and if necessary we also use sub-contractors but there is a massive shortage of skilled tradesmen in the building trade so we are fortunate in having good people working for us. It's great having the units at Lock Stock Llandudno as all of our staff can access them at any time.

Q. How have you survived given the current economic difficulties facing all businesses?

We always had something in hand and I always had something to fall back on but I would never do a job for nothing. I would sooner go home and do my garden. Being able to store at Lock Stock has also helped during the difficult financial period as its flexible and you can take up units, downsize and empty as and when the business requires. It's also so cost effective in comparison to other storage options.



James Neale and staff with site manager Tony Jones



Budding young Rockies at an up and coming amateur boxing club on Anglesey have received a knock-out sponsorship boost from a top self-storage company

The Holyhead and Anglesey Club, which is based on the town's Vicarage Lane, has been helped out to the tune of £400 to kit itself out with vest, shorts and tracksuit for each of their boxers.

The donation has come from Lock Stock Self Storage, the UK's largest containerised storage company, which opened its first storage park on Anglesey, off Kingsland Road, at Holyhead two years ago. It's a welcome boost to the club formed eight years ago by chief trainer Tony Maguire who was a founder member of the old Holyhead Red Dragon Club and boxed from the age of 16 to 28. He said: "I didn't really have much proper coaching and it wasn't until my last couple of years that I really developed as a boxer but by then my wife was expecting our first child so I had to stop."

"But now I feel I want to pass on those skills and give youngsters the benefit of my experience to help them develop and also to create much more than just a boxing club - I want us to be a real focal point for the community."

A newly-formed Little Rocky Class sees boys and girls aged six to nine put through their paces every Saturday and it's proving a big hit while the older boys and the seniors have regular training sessions three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6-7.30pm.

Lock Stock Commercial Manager Jeff Woods said: "We always like to be part of the communities in which we operate and we support a wide range of sporting and other organisations across North Wales. These include the Welsh Alliance football leagues as well as

Denbigh Town Football Club, fishing, rugby and bowls clubs in Rhyl, Mold and Wrexham, Citizens Advice Bureaux in Denbighshire, a primary school in Saltney and charities like Ty Gobaith. This is important to us and it's why we're pleased to help out the boxing club here in Holyhead and hopefully we'll soon see some Welsh champions and internationals from among its ranks."

That looks increasingly like according to Tony who said: "We box all over the UK and compete in Welsh championships and boxing events cups throughout the year and we're also holding our own show in Holyhead in December. We've got some great young prospects with young Ben Williams who is only 11, and Kyle Owen while Mattie Griffin is another of our best and he won four Welsh titles as a schoolboy. Boxing as a sport is great for fitness and for self-discipline, hitting a punchbag is a great way to release tension but they've got to think as well. It's not just about throwing punches. It's about self-respect and respect for your opponents as well."





Storage giant steps in to provide Christmas tree greetings for Denbigh

A leading Denbigh business has stepped in to stump up the cash for two Christmas trees at the gateways to the town for the festive season.

This follows last week's announcement that the Town Council had decided not to display the trees over the five weeks of Christmas this year so the money can be spent on other projects.

Lock Stock Self Storage, the UK's biggest container-based self-storage company which is based on the town's Colomendy Industrial Estate, is to supply the two 25-foot high trees which traditionally stand on the roundabouts at the northern and southern gateways to the town.

The trees should be in place from this Friday when the town centre Christmas tree in Crown Square is illuminated at the Christmas lights switch-on.

Jeff Woods, Commercial Manager at Lock Stock, said: "The Christmas trees at either end of the town are a lovely way to welcome people to Denbigh and so we wanted to help out if we could.

"We are a Denbigh-based company and our roots are very firmly in the town and we support Denbigh Town Football Club, the town's Bonfire Night and other local organisations and sports club so we contacted the Town Council and offered to help them out with the Christmas trees.

"We appreciate that organisations like the Town Council have tight budgets so we were happy to come forward and give them and the people of Denbigh a Christmas present at this time of the year."

The Mayor of Denbigh, Gaynor Wood-Tickle, said: "This is truly wonderful news for Denbigh, fantastic community spirit. We can't thank Lock Stock enough for their kind donation.

"Denbigh Town Council are especially grateful as Lock Stock is already a sponsor for the fireworks event."

Denbigh Town Council had voted recently not to erect Christmas trees on the two roundabouts to save on the purchase and erection of the trees and the electricity costs of lighting them so the money could be spent on other council projects.

This Friday the town's Christmas lights switch-on will be held at the Town Hall at 6pm.

The event will also include a visit from Father Christmas, various stalls, music, activities and a fairground.

Lock Stock was founded in Denbigh in 1999 by brothers Nick and Shon Powell and now has 2,900 containers at 18 sites across North and Mid Wales and the Border Counties and as well as offering units to hire on their sites they sell a range of used and new containers delivered by their specialist lorry – they also sell fireworks at Chester, Rhyl and Llandudno and on-line.

Their existing sites stretch from Holyhead along the North Wales coast at Bangor, Llandudno Junction and Rhyl, on the Dee at Flint and Chester and inland at Denbigh, Mold, Wrexham and Newtown in Powys, and at Oswestry and Shrewsbury in Shropshire.



Mold Youth win Welsh National Youth Cup at St Clears, Carmarthenshire

A tremendous try by man of the match flanker Toby Rees-Slawson helped Mold Youth to a 10-0 Welsh National Youth Cup win in Carmarthenshire against St Clears.

It was a second successive away win in South Wales for Mold who are backed by North Wales-based storage giant Lock Stock Self Storage and comes after their 35-22 win at Rhiwbina in the first round.

In appalling conditions the first-half was scoreless before a penalty fly-half Seth Geary gave Mold the lead but the match was still in the balance until Rees-Slawson battered his way over with Geary adding the conversion.

Mold are top of the North East Wales Youth League and team manager Sue Miller said: "It was a tough game played in atrocious conditions but the lads stuck at it and deserved their win. We've got a big squad of over 30 and they're quite a young side so many of them have a couple more years at this level which bodes well for the future. It was difficult at St Clears and there were fears the match might not be able to be played because it was so wet but they've come through and we're just hoping for a home draw in the next round."

Shon Powell, a former rugby player himself who launched Lock Stock with his brother Nick, in Denbigh in 1999, said:

"It's always good to beat South Wales opposition and even better to do it down there."

"We've a longstanding relationship with Mold's junior sides and we're delighted to see them doing so well and flying the flag for the north."

Mold have a flourishing mini and junior section and youth team products include Welsh international James King at the Ospreys while Will Bryan and Rhys Williams have represented RGC 1404 in the Welsh Premiership and Joe Sproston, Lloyd Hayes (Doncaster Knights) and Alex Schwarz (Cornish Pirates) have played professional rugby in the English Championship.

For more information go to <https://mold.rfc.wales> and for more on Lock Stock go to <http://www.lockstock.biz/>

A North Wales venue where the Beatles once played is one of five sites where a national disability charity is to open its first fund-raising shops in Wales.

Sense, which helps people with complex disabilities such as the deaf/blind, has teamed up with one of the UK's biggest self-storage companies to drive an expansion into North Wales.

The charity is to open five stores across the region, one of them in Rhyl where a blue plaque at 38, High Street, commemorates the date on July 14, 1962, when the Fab Four played for the first time in Wales.

The property will be the second Sense charity shop with an opening scheduled for the New Year and after they open their first Welsh store next month (December) as it expands its work into Wales with a further 15 scheduled for South Wales.



The stores will be supplied with stock stored in four giant-40 foot containers at the Lock Stock Self Storage site in Saltney, near Chester, which will act as a depot for the charity.

The first Sense store will open in Llandudno's former Royal Bank of Scotland building in Mostyn Street in December and will be followed by branches in Rhyl, Wrexham, Denbigh and Welshpool.

Sense Area Manager for Wales Martin Newell said: "We're delighted to be about to open in Wales for the first time and we like to involve and build relationships with local businesses such as Lock Stock who provide our storage needs here to spread awareness of the important work we do.

"We already have the containers in use at Saltney with enough stock for up to ten shops and all ready to be sorted.

"It's ideal because we can bring the lorry in from our main base in Crayford in Essex and it can load directly into the containers and then we will have a van to distribute the stock to the shops."

Sense was founded in 1955 by two mothers whose children were born with complex disabilities and it has grown to an organisation with over 100 charity shops in England and a budget of over £60 million to provide a

range of services and support to such children and their families.

Lock Stock Director Nick Powell, who founded the Denbigh-based self-storage business in 1999 with his brother Shaun, said: "We are delighted to have been able to help such a worthy charity which does such important work.

"This is their first move into Wales and they have been able to make four containers available to them alongside each other on one site which makes the logistics of distribution easier for them.

"Containers storage like this works very well for organisations like Sense and for commercial businesses as well because they provide safe, secure storage facilities which can be accessed at all times of the day or night." Martin Newell added: "We help people with complex disabilities or who are deafblind with communication and mobility needs and our vision is of a world where no one with complex disabilities is isolated, left out, or unable to fulfil their potential.

"Our goal is to support children and families get the best possible start, Adults are supported to live and learn through each stage of their life's, individuals are less lonely and feel more connected with their communities and we aim to increase awareness of the impact of our work so society is inspired to take action.

"The funds generated through our shops help us to support the deafblind community by providing holidays, short breaks and activity groups, education and support centres, housing and individual support, information and advice.

"Local communities can support Sense by visiting our shops where we will have a fantastic collection of clothing, books, DVDs, CDs and for something unique and sometimes quirky browse our bric a brac.

"All this is only possible with the help of our local supporters and their donations and of course our volunteers and for more information or on how to donate or volunteer in our shops please visit www.sense.org.uk.

Lock Stock Commercial Manager Jeff Woods said: "We're really pleased to be helping out such a worthy charity with their first shops in Wales.

"We've expanded our capacity here in Saltney where we're close to Chester and to the A55 so there's really good communications and ideal and safe storage which is accessible 24/7.

"Our containers are perfect for charities and for businesses and each of the 40-foot containers provides 2,560 cubic feet of storage.

"As with all our sites there will be 24/7 access with security fencing, cameras and lighting and 24-hour passcode access which is ideal for businesses and charities."

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Keen bowlers in Wrexham are beating disability

Keen bowlers in Wrexham are beating disability to finish jack high come rain, hail, snow or shine on an all-weather surface thanks to the backing of Wales's biggest self storage company.

Bradley Park Bowling Club hold regular weekly sessions for their Touch-Wood visually-impaired players on Wednesdays from April to October at the club in Gwersyllt and on Thursday the disability club Spot the Jack meet up. They also run a highly competitive winter league which attracts some of the best bowls players from across North Wales and the Wirral with the help of their sponsorship from Lock Stock Self Storage.

Ray Barnes, Bradley Park's chairman, said: "The old bowling green had become derelict here for 13 years but thanks to a fantastic bunch of dedicated committee members we managed to raise grants of £250,000 and built this all-weather surface and opened it in 2012.

"They're still here running Bradley Bowling Club today and we are looking at improving the facility for all members of the public to enjoy and make them as comfortable as possible.

"It's really well-used and all year round as well – it's a bit tricky if there's a frost because the bowls just won't stop but we get lots of players from other clubs coming here in the winter.

"Spot the Jack turn up every week of the year but if the weather beats us we just socialise in the clubhouse over a hot drink and plenty of chocolate biscuits.

"The club also includes stroke victims and while a lot of members bring along their own carers, without the volunteers and committee members we would be at a loss so a big thankyou to them.

The visually-impaired bowlers are helped to line up by club members like Richard Millward, and they then bowl

the jack out which gives them a feel for how hard they need to send out their two woods.

Richard said: "Ray asked me along to help out and I really enjoy it and it's great for the Touchwood bowlers and the disabled members of the Spot The Jack club. "It gets them out and about and involved in a sport and in meeting people and they love it and they can have a cup of tea and some food.

Lock Stock have a total of 19 storage parks across North Wales and the border counties and Mike Trow manages their two sites in Wrexham, at Felin Puleston, on Ruabon Road, and on the Whitegate Light Industrial Estate on Queensway.

He said: "It's a great facility here at Bradley Park and it's fantastic to see so many people making use of it.

"There's a special community spirit here and you can see how much it means to the visually-impaired and disabled bowlers and how much they enjoy it.

"We're also glad to be able to help the club with the Winter League and we wish them every success in the future.

Tony Curtis is 77 and has been bowling since 2008 and he said: "I have a degenerative eye condition which has left me with no sight at all. I can get light and dark but it's like looking at it through a really thick fog.

"I really enjoy it though and we have a great time. It's a great way to meet people and to get out and do something.

Anyone interested in taking parts in the bowls sessions at Bradley Bowling Club can contact Touch-Wood Secretary Chris Curtis, 07708 021566, and Spot the Jack Secretary Yvonne Shaw, 07729 316551.



Space provided for popular children's charity in Oswestry

A popular children's charity is clearing the decks for action at its Oswestry headquarters with the help of one of the UK's biggest storage companies.

Space is at a premium at Hope House in Morda where the hospice provides vital respite and end-of-life care for local terminally ill children and their families but they now have more elbow room thanks to Lock Stock Self Storage. The charity is preparing for a busy schedule which includes its Eat Cake Week, which starts on Monday, April 6, and Classics at the College, a vintage motoring concours d'elegance from Hope House to Ellesmere College on Saturday, May 30.

Meanwhile a giant 40-foot storage unit with 2,560 square feet of space has been provided for them, rent-free for a month, at Lock Stock's Maesbury Road site in the town. It will be used to store specialist equipment, such as pea-pod chairs which provide full support, and special beds and furniture for use by the children as well as seasonal goods and materials such as Christmas decorations. It's making a big difference at Hope House HQ according to Heath Arnfield, Hope House's Hospitality Manager, who said: "It's a godsend – we wanted to clear space at Morda for the children and the services we provide for them and this has been the answer.

"It means that specialist equipment that is vital but which isn't in use all the time can be stored here until the need arises and then because we're only five minutes away and can access this storage unit 24/7 we can easily pick it up.

"That also applies to the pea-pod supportive chairs which are for children with restricted movement and they might only need them a few times a year but when we do they're vital.

Like all Lock Stock's storage units Hope House's is painted in the company's distinctive dark green livery,

are insulated, wind and watertight and accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Maesbury Road storage park has 260 storage units, all eight foot high by eight foot wide, in 10, 20 and 40 foot lengths with storage capacities ranging from 640 cubic feet to 2,560 cubic feet. Most of the units are a by-product of the UK's trade with China – most are Chinese-built and have made the 12,000-mile seven-week sea journey via the Suez Canal.

Storage Park Manager Phil Short said: "We're delighted to be able to help out Hope House which is such a worthy and popular charity and with good reason for the fantastic work they do.

"The site here in Oswestry is very popular, storage is important for people moving house, especially if they downsizing, but it is also ideal for many businesses and we have plenty of electricians, painters and plumbers here.

"They find them ideal for operating from because there are no business rates or service charges and they can operate from a storage unit, calling there to stock up in the morning before going out to jobs which is one reason we plan our sites very carefully so that our tenants can easily access their units 24/7.

The Oswestry site is one of three in Shropshire with two in Shrewsbury and further storage parks at Caernarfon, Holyhead, Bangor, Llandudno Junction and Rhyl on the North Wales Coast, on the Dee at Flint, Sandycroft and Saltney, and inland at the Colomendy Industrial Estate in Denbigh, Mold, Wrexham and Newtown in Powys. Lock Stock also sell fireworks at Chester, and Llandudno Junction all year, seasonally at Denbigh, Rhyl, Shrewsbury and Wrexham, and on-line.

For more on Hope House go to www.hopehouse.org.uk

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A remarkable Rhyl woman who is helping keep over 20 people a week across the town off the breadline with her busy food bank has issued an appeal for lockdown donations of food. Eunice Parry has been running the charity from the ASK Centre in Water Street for the past three years but lockdown has seen demand grow in one of the poorest areas in Wales. It's an operation she runs in close partnership with Citizens Advice Denbighshire (CAD) which has its Rhyl office in the same building and which refers struggling families and individuals to the food bank. Some of Eunice's customers are in such hardship that they don't even have a kettle to boil water for powdered soup: "Last week I had to be creative and think of 101 things you can put on bread for someone who wasn't allowed a kettle by their landlord – it's very humbling," she said. As well as CAD Eunice receives support from the local Morrisons supermarket and she has just had a donation from Denbigh-based Lock Stock Self Storage which has one of its chain of storage parks in the town.

Lock Stock's Lisa James said: "We were pleased to help out because Eunice is such a remarkable person and she deserves support for the amazing job she is doing. "She has a brilliant partnership with CAD and they work so well together to look after so many people who have fallen on hard times, especially since lockdown."

The ASK Centre – the name comes from the biblical quotation 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you,' - is part of the United Church in Rhyl and Eunice is the manager there where she is helped by volunteers. She said: "It was initially just a 24-hour food bank to provide people with enough food for a day but since lockdown we've been putting together bigger food parcels with enough for up to five days. "Prior to lockdown the Centre provided a lot more services but since then we've had much more demand and although we're doing the same amount of parcels they're much bigger now. "We work very closely with Denbighshire Citizen's Advice who are all working hard from home and a referral for a food parcel comes through them though we can direct people to them if they call here. "We get a lot of help from Morrisons and Tracey Jaycock, their Community Champion, and regular donations of food or money

from church members. "We also have a fund for gas and electricity because people can be at the end of their tether when they've got food but no money to pay for the electricity or gas to cook it. "We spend about £200 a week and we're always grateful for more donations of money, food and especially toiletries. "We provide bread and milk and staple, non-perishable food like tea and coffee, tins of beans, meat and vegetables, microwavable rice, noodles and food suitable for folk who only have a kettle and we also supply toiletries and sanitary products. "I've even done deliveries and people are so grateful when I roll up in my little white car, people who can't go out, maybe a mum at home with little children or an older person with mobility issues." Eunice does have a volunteer who comes in to help two mornings a week but she does most of the shopping and ordering and she added: "They're used to me at the check-out now and I know where I can get the cheapest deals. "If people are donating their money then I've got to make the most of it. It's someone else's money and I have to spend it wisely."

CAD Rhyl Manager Sue Parry said: "We have an excellent partnership with ASK and during lockdown people would knock on their door and Eunice would put them in touch with us so we can help them with the underlying issues which have put them in need and make a food bank referral. "I am working from home at the moment but I pop into the office and have meetings and Eunice and I work very well together to help people who are not in the best of circumstances. "They've often had a crisis and they need free help and information to help them resolve it and often it comes down to a choice for them to heat or eat and particularly if there are children or vulnerable people we will bend over backwards to give them support."

For more information contact Citizens Advice Denbighshire on 01745 334568 or go to their website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/denbighshire or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CADenbighshire

For more information on the ASK Centre go to www.facebook.com/theASKcentre or call 01745 339646



Green-fingered gardeners at charity have plenty of work in store

The green-fingered gardeners at a Gwynedd charity have plenty of new tools to get to grips with thanks to a generous donation from Wales's biggest storage company.

Lock Stock Self Storage have provided Antur Waunfawr with £200-worth of implements including a wheelbarrow, shovels, hoes, power tools and a hose for their well-being gardening activities at its Warws Werdd premises near Caernarfon.

The long-established charity has pioneered working with adults with learning disabilities in the community since it was set up 35 years ago and it now has several strings to its bow.

At Caergylchu Recycling Centre, a partnership with Gwynedd Council, they deal with 15,000 tons of materials a year, including a shredding service, Warws Werdd on the Cibyn Industrial Estate has a thriving

furniture and clothes upcycling operation, Beics Antur is a bike-hire and well-being business in Caernarfon and there is also a seven-acre nature park and café at Waunfawr.



Lock Stock Area Site Manager Tony Jones was on familiar territory when the storage giant opened its site on the Cibyn Estate, next door to Lock Stock's storage park – he had helped build the Warws Werdd premises 16 years earlier.

He said: "Antur Waunfawr do such wonderful work with their clients and in supporting them in the community so that they can make a real contribution so I suggested it would be good to help them out. It was special to come back here and see the place I helped build and Antur Waunfawr have done such great work in Gwynedd and are still making good use of this building, there's always something new going on.

"Lock Stock were happy to agree and to come up with a donation and I know these tools will be put to good use in the grounds here and I know they also provide a gardening service from their Waunfawr site as well."

Antur Waunfawr now has over 100 staff and supports 65 adults across Gwynedd

Marketing Manager Carla Esposito said: "We're really grateful to Lock Stock because it's so important for us to have these essential tools for our people to work with. Keeping the gardens and grounds tidy and well-tended is important of course and it's also very positive for our clients' well-being and health. Here at Warws Werdd we focus on reuse and repair, from furniture upcycling to clothing recycling projects, and we also provide training and work experience to adults with learning disabilities. We have been very busy with developments which also include a new cycling and well-being centre in Caernarfon but we do reach out to people right across Gwynedd."



Charity appeals for crafters to train adults with learning difficulties

A charity that works with adults with learning difficulties is appealing for crafters to volunteer to pass on their skills at their café and shop in Wrexham town centre.

Baseline Matters was set up by Denise Thomas, whose son has Aspergers, after she found that there was a lack of services for young people with mental health issues like autism once they had left school.

Denise, from Mold, said: "In fact it is not just young people who are not catered for but adults of all ages with a range of issues and we try to provide them with the skills they need to help with their independence and communication within the community. That can be through working in our café and shop in Henblas Street, dealing with the public or learning office skills behind the scenes."

"Now we also want to extend our services by having craft sessions which would be open to all, and already we are holding some classes but we would be keen to offer more if we can find people to pass on their skills. We'd like to set up classes and community groups in needlework and knitting, crochet, needle felting and making Christmas cards, crafts and wreaths."

Baseline Matters, who also plan to open in Flintshire next year, have just taken on a second 40-foot unit from North Wales-based storage giant Lock Stock Self Storage at their Ruabon Road complex, one of two storage parks they have in the town. The company, founded in 1999, is the UK's largest containerised storage company with over 3,000 units providing over four million cubic feet of space at 22 parks across North and Mid Wales and the border counties.

Lock Stock North East Wales Area Site Manager Mike Trow said: "The storage units are perfect for charities like Baseline Matters because they offer huge amounts of space in secure and sealed units. Baseline Matters do such a great job providing services, teaching important life skills and offering social opportunities for a wide range of adults who might otherwise find themselves isolated, particularly in the current crisis."

Among those working at the Henblas Street shop and café is Lindsay Roberts, 38, from Pen y Cae, who said: "I really enjoy working here. I get to meet lots of people and it's good experience."

Denise added: "I started Baseline Matters at the end of 2017 and we were in Ty Pawb but felt that there wasn't the space there for what we wanted to do. We currently have five or six people with a range of learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues and we have a waiting list as we can't cater for any more yet because of the pandemic. We always need more volunteers and we're always glad to hear from anyone interested and if anyone has any ideas about other services we can offer we're open to suggestions."



Tony Jones, front, of Lock Stock Self Storage, with Bethesda Athletic young stars of the future, from left, Ifan Wyn, Noah Wyn Jones and Deio Wyn with, back, club chairman Stephen Jones and coaches Meilyr Wyn and Martin Rosser.



Legendary North Wales village club bounces back by building for the future

A village football club with a proud history is rebuilding for the future by attracting up to 100 youngsters, some as young as five, to its regular junior training sessions. Bethesda Athletic was formed in 1946 but the club's roots go back much deeper into the slate quarries that surrounded the village on the A5 and it can boast Welsh international Malcolm Allen as a former player.

Wrexham and Leeds United centre forward Don Weston, legendary manager Don Revie's first signing for the Elland Road club, also played for the club as did former Wales assistant manager Osian Roberts, Wrexham defender Ally McGowan and Chester winger Elfed Morris. Others who also turned out for the club included Tommy G Jones, Everton's prince of centre-halves, Mel Charles, brother of John, and player-manager Johnny Jones while well-travelled non-league goalkeeper/manager Phil Staley even wrote a book, *Get Those Sheep Off The Pitch*, about his days in North Wales football managing Bethesda.

Bethesda were twice Welsh Alliance champions a dozen years ago before falling on hard times but the club is bouncing back and a buoyant youth and junior section is part of the process. Their regular training sessions attract age groups from Under-6s to Under-14s with two containers bought from UK container-based storage giant Lock Stock Self Storage now housing equipment for their weekly training sessions.

Junior section chairman Stephen Jones, a former Bethesda midfielder, Football Association of Wales referee and local undertaker, said: "The village has a rich football history going back 100 years and was originally Penrhyn Quarries and we're rebuilding the club from the youth team up. We were Welsh Alliance champions two years running from 2007 to 2009 and won the North Wales Coast Cup in 2009 and we hosted Welsh Under-19 and Under-17s internationals against Norway and Scotland back in those days. We had some good youth sides as well and Malcolm Allen, who went on to play for Wales and starred for Watford and Norwich and to commentate for S4C, played here. It's been a struggle since then and at the moment we're waiting to find out which level the first team will be playing at when football resumes because the club did fall on hard times but we're fighting back. There's a resurgence taking place with lots of junior players and some good young lads in the first team so that all bodes well. We've got very good facilities and the two containers have helped with the storage of equipment and mowers so we're getting on a sound footing again."

Tony Jones, Lock Stock Site Manager for Bangor, Caernarfon, Llandudno Junction and Holyhead, said: "Bethesda has always had a really strong community spirit and the football club was well-known and respected. It's great to see them getting back on their feet and with the kind of leadership and enthusiasm that Stephen brings I'm sure that when football resumes properly they will be well on their way to being a force again."

"The village has a rich football history going back 100 years"



Christmas comes early as high street giant teams up with Denbigh primary school

Christmas has come early for a Denbighshire primary school which is earning itself much-needed funds thanks to a partnership with a high street giant. Enterprising Ysgol Y Parc Infants school in Denbigh have installed a storage unit from local company Lock Stock Self Storage and are selling surplus stock from Poundland in Rhyl to raise cash for classroom supplies. The 20-foot unit boasts 1280 cubic feet of space and currently much of it is taken up by a wide range of Poundland's Christmas range including Christmas cards, wrapping paper, decorations and party bags. It's set to be a major boost to the 206-pupil school which takes children from reception class to Year Two and which has seen the loss of such money-spinners as the Christmas Fayre, School Discos and the annual Summer event, known as Parcfest, which have raised over £3,000 in the past.

School Administrator Paula Hassall said: "We have a connection with Poundland in Rhyl and they have very kindly donated their unsold stock to us and registered us as a charity for a year which is a big help. They're letting us have the unsold stock free of charge and we've put it up for sale on the school Facebook page and on Facebook Marketplace. It's especially important as the pandemic has prevented us from holding all the usual fund-raising events to raise money for the school. Even a sponsored walk has been difficult for us because of the restrictions and the children have really missed collecting their sponsorship money which is really exciting for them."

Lock Stock's Lisa James, who went to Ysgol Y Parc, was delighted to pay her old school a visit and she said: "I'm delighted we have been able to help them

out with the hire of the storage unit. It has always been a lovely school and I have so many happy memories of being here – the school seems a lot smaller than how I remember it. But the pandemic has made it difficult for schools and many charities to carry out their usual fund-raising and here they really need that extra money for important classroom materials and indoor and outdoor equipment. It's brilliant the way Poundland are supporting the school and I'm sure it will help them greatly – and it's a great chance to get some of that Christmas shopping done early."

Paula added: "The sales have been going very well and details can be found on the school Facebook page. We've had customers from as far as Bala, Prestatyn and Ruthin already as it's never too early to start shopping for Christmas and we have also donated some of the stock to a local nursing home."

For more information about the school including a link to the Facebook page go to www.ysgolyparc.co.uk





Vibrant village football club can enjoy their £96K all-weather pitch at last

Lockdown is unlocking and a vibrant North Wales village football club is celebrating its 20 anniversary with almost 200 players from aged four to sixty training and playing again every week.

It means that Kinmel Bay Football Club, based at the village Leisure Centre, can at last use the £96,000 new all-weather training area installed by Kinmel Bay and Towyn Sports and Recreation Association just before the pandemic put an end to local football. Now it's in action almost every evening as well as at weekends with the club's two senior sides starting to play friendlies and with competitive football just around the corner.

The club, accredited Platinum Standard by the Football Association of Wales Trust for a second year running, also run boys and girls groups from the age of four up and a ladies recreational side with players up to the age of sixty who have played three, won three record. Their all-inclusive policy stretches across gender and ability and even includes a successful Disability Section especially for the visually impaired. All that activity had meant a shortage of storage space for balls, nets, training cones, corner flags and the rest of the paraphernalia of a football club and they have just solved the problem by taking delivery of two storage units from specialists Lock Stock Self Storage Ltd, of Denbigh.

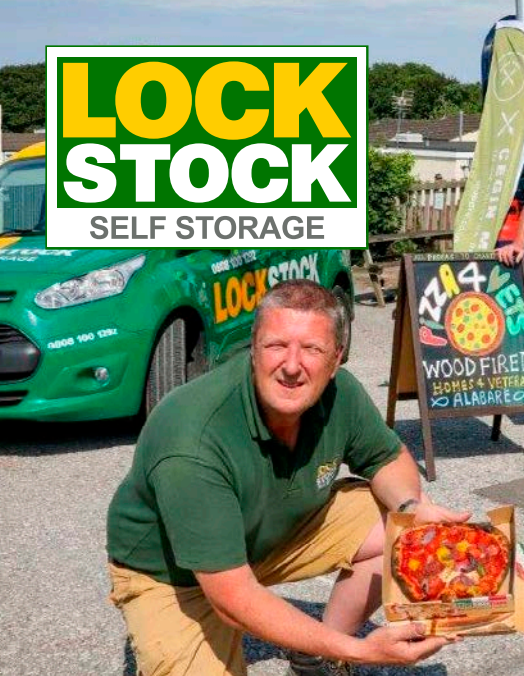
Kinmel Bay FC Club Chairman Frank Standing said: "It's been great to see the players coming back to fitness especially the kids who are really enjoying it. It's good that both senior and junior sides can now have support as people are allowed along to watch them. We've been back training since the end of May and we will be starting the next season for the girls and boys in September."

"The senior sides start in July and it will be good to be back playing games. The club is 20 years old this year after being founded by Bill Darwin and his late sister Anne Darwin who did so much for the youth of Kinmel Bay & Towyn. They have been integral to our growth and Bill as our President still has a big input to the club." It's also the first time we have been able to make use of the all-weather surface which was installed just before the first lockdown and we're hoping it will bring in revenue for us because we have to fund the site ourselves."

Bill said:

"The Club has become one of the FAW's leading Platinum community clubs because of its standards and it has recently teamed up with BT to become a community BT Hub at the Y Morfa Leisure Centre."

"It's relationship with the Sports Association at Y Morfa is excellent resulting in the recent installation of the £96,000 all-weather MUGA surface which was possible with grants from Sport Wales and the WA. But due to the number of teams in the junior and senior sections the club was running out of storage so we contacted the specialists, Lock Stock Self Storage Ltd of Denbigh, for help. Their expertise and speedy service very quickly had us sorted with the delivery on site of two containers which enabled us to store our equipment safely and out of sight."



Lock Stock North West Wales Area Manager Tony Jones samples a pizza from homeless veterans charity Alabaré's Field Kitchen at Llanddulas Royal British Legion watched by Nigel Edwards, Field Kitchen Operations Manager, and Barbara

Veterans charity helps rough-sleeping former soldier rebuild his life

A charity that supports homeless veterans from across North Wales is helping a former soldier rebuild his life after he was made homeless and ended up sleeping rough.

Alabaré, which runs three homes in Conwy and a further six across South Wales as well as in the south of England, has launched Field Kitchen, a wood-fired pizzeria in a converted horsebox, to raise funds and re-skill some of its clients. The venture is being supported by the UK's biggest container self-storage company, Denbigh-based Lock Stock, which has 22 storage parks across North Wales and the borders, and is aimed at supporting over 30 former servicemen each year back into accommodation and employment.

Former Royal Signals Regiment soldier Will Harper – not his real name – spent months sleeping rough in his vehicle with his faithful dog, Harry, after the family farm he had helped fund had to be sold to pay off debts. He said: "I came out of the Army to try and save the farm and I started a welding business there but unfortunately they had piled up debts and we lost the farm and I was left homeless, sleeping rough in the pick-up. I spent six months living like that. I'd try to find somewhere really quiet in the woods because they close all the public toilets at 5pm which means there's nowhere else to go – it was just lucky I had a vehicle."

"Luckily, I was put in touch with Alabaré and they've been able to help me. Having somewhere stable to live and now they've put me in touch with Cais which supports homeless people to get back into employment."

"I grew up on a farm and am able to turn my hand to most things and I ran a steel fabricating business for a while but when we lost the farm things began to unravel. It's a horrible situation to be in and very lonely

but I feel I'm getting back on track again now. Alabaré have provided me with a roof over my head, a bed and cleaning and cooking facilities – things everyone takes for granted – but just having someone to talk to and activities to do makes such a difference."

Lock Stock North West Wales Sites Manager Tony Jones said: "Alabaré do some fantastic work with Veterans who can find it hard to adjust to life back on civvy street or find circumstances stacked against them like David. This is a great idea to run a mobile pizzeria with a proper wood-burning oven and they turn out great pizzas as well. Things can be tough for charities in these difficult times so this is a great way to raise funds and perhaps give some of their clients an opportunity to retrain as well."

Alabaré Social Enterprise Manager Barbara Salerno said: "We are building up the number of venues where we go and can even do weddings and birthday parties, as well. We rely very heavily on donations and we're grateful to Lock Stock Self-Storage for their support, it's that kind of generosity that helps us provide these important services."





Afghan refugee Iskandar calls on Refugee Kindness manager Jordan Hughes, centre, and Lisa James, of Lock Stock Self Storage.

Afghan refugees find safety and support in North Wales

Refugees from Afghanistan are being helped by a North Wales charity after escaping the war-torn country.

They are now among over 250 displaced people starting to rebuild their lives with the help of local charity Refugee Kindness North Wales who are based at the Lock Stock Self-Storage site on Wrexham's Whitegate Industrial Estate.

The charity is helping people in Wrexham, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay, among them several from Afghanistan, and they use the Lock Stock unit as a drop-off point for clothing, furniture and household goods donated by members of the public. These are distributed to over 60 refugees and asylum seeking families numbering around 250 individuals, in Wrexham, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay, among them Iskander, not his real name, and his wife who now live in a flat near Wrexham. They left family and friends behind to fly out to the UK and he said: "I didn't even know there was a Wales before I arrived here but it is very nice here, very quiet and I hope to find work in management or education, perhaps with the British Government again. Refugee Kindness have been very good to us – we had some savings when we arrived but everything is very expensive here. The money we had would have been enough for more than a year in Afghanistan but we have spent most of it already just on basics."

Refugee Kindness – North Wales was set up 12 months ago by barrister Rachel Watkin who gave a set of chairs to a family of Syrian refugees through Facebook Marketplace and, as a result, became aware of the plight of refugee and asylum-seeking families in North Wales and how difficult it is for them to obtain household goods, toys and cooking utensils.

The volunteers of Refugee Kindness – North Wales began collecting items from the donors themselves and storing them at their homes but that very quickly became overwhelming and they contacted Lock Stock to hire a unit at their storage park on the Whitegate Estate. They operated for nine months without any formal funding but the trustees realised the charity needed a full-time manager and this summer graduate Jordan Hughes, a volunteer for eight months, was appointed.

Lock Stock's Lisa James said: **"It's such a worthy charity and we're glad we've been able to assist by renting the storage unit to the charity. The unit is secure and watertight and they can access it 24/7 so it is ideal as a drop-off point as donors can access the unit at any time."**

Jordan added: "We do rely entirely on donations and have had a fantastic response from the people of North Wales who have been very kind and generous. The refugees arrive with very little and while they may be given a house or a flat they need things that can turn it into a home. For example, kitchen utensils because they love to cook, household goods and toys for the children. The families we support are from all over the world – we have families from Syria, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Iraq, Africa and other countries. I met two families last week from El Salvador and Kuwait and they were crying with happiness when we were able to help them – they were just overwhelmed by the kindness of people here in North Wales. We still need more help and with well over 100 children to arrange Christmas presents for we would be grateful for any toys, games, crafts etc. We only provide items in good condition.



A NINE-year-old from Anglesey is aiming to make a big splash in his second season in the mad and muddy world of motocross – on a bigger, more powerful bike

Kyle Jeffcoate, from Holyhead, cut a dash in his first year in the rough and tumble of this fast-paced sport and is looking ahead to more competition when the new season starts this spring.

He has been backed by leading storage company Lock Stock Self-Storage, which has 20 storage parks across North Wales and Cheshire including one in Holyhead, where Kyle's dad, Darren, provides the security service. Kyle might be small in stature, but he made a big impression in his first full season in the Cheshire North West Schoolboys Series. There, he competed in the 50cc class and finished fourth, qualifying for the Cheshire team for the National Championships at Oxford, where they also finished fourth.

Darren, a keen motocross rider himself, said: "I've always preferred bikes to cars and I've got two motorbikes, one of them a motocross machine. Kyle had a go because his older brother, Koren, took it up, but he's stuck at it and has the talent so after a few lessons we thought we'd chuck him in the deep end and he's done really well. He has now moved up from the 50cc KTM bike to a 65cc version with gears, which will do more than 60 mph, and he has spent the winter getting used to it at various sites across the UK."

Kyle, a pupil at Ysgol Rhyd y Llan, Llanfaethlu, will again be competing in the Cheshire Series, with the first event scheduled for March. Before that, there's a series of other events and races, and he's also set his sights on the Lucas Oil Kids'r'Us Championships and a series of other races during the next 12 months.

Holyhead storage site manager Lee Hanson said: "Young Kyle is very good and it will be great to see him competing. It's brilliant that we're able to help young Kyle. Lock Stock do support so many good causes and charities and like to get involved in the communities where they operate."

Darren added: "He's got the enthusiasm and determination to get to the front – he doesn't like being behind anyone. In his class the bikes are quick and he'll be up against boys who are bigger and older than he is and we're just grateful to Lock Stock for helping give him this chance."





Storage giant Dragons offer £5K prize for the best budding business talent

A £5,000 Dragon's Den style search to find a budding entrepreneur with a golden future has been launched by one of the UK's biggest self-storage companies.

Lock Stock Self-Storage are offering a valuable package of start-up aid including 12 months' rent free in a specially adapted storage unit for the business brain with the best new scheme.

The Denbigh-based company have just taken delivery of their 3,000th storage unit and to celebrate that milestone they have also commissioned a special golden unit to tour its 18 storage sites over the next two months on the back of a lorry with prizes up for grabs on the firm's social media pages for those who spot it.

The competition is open to both new and existing businesses and the winner will move into a unit at the storage park of their choice, free from rent and rates for 12 months and access to a valuable package of business support and advice while they kick-start their operation into life.

The package is worth over £5,000 including a £3000 cash prize and the only thing standing in their way is a grilling from the Lock Stock Business Dragons, a panel of judges which will include Lock Stock Sites Manager Mike Trow and HSBC Business Relationship Manager Will Jones who has vast experience of advising businesses how to grow.

HSBC Area Director Martin Lyons said: "I think this is a brilliant initiative because whether the winner is an existing business or a start-up, small businesses always need a helping hand."

"Lock Stock Self Storage are a brilliant company and they have always been keen on working within the community and lending a helping hand where they can."

The accompanying package for the winner includes PR, banking support, two one-hour one-on-one sessions with Will Jones looking at business strategy and growth, valuable networking opportunities and an overall mentoring process.

Mike Trow said: "We are very excited to launch our Business Dragons competition which is aimed at helping someone turn their bright idea into entrepreneurial reality."

"Our storage parks are at the heart of our communities and so many of our units are already helping people grow their businesses – in some of those parks over 60 per cent of our units are taken by businesses."

"It is with this in mind that we wanted to offer a local person, with a great business idea, the chance to make their dream reality without many of the start-up costs which can be so prohibitive when you make that first, scary step."

"We are asking people to come forward and write to us with their ideas for their business and we will draw up a shortlist of candidates who will then compete against one another in a grand final where they will pitch their idea directly to us."

"The one we deem to have the most potential will win the 12-month free unit and also have our backing including expert PR support to make their business a success."

To enter tell us your business plan and why you should win, in no more than 500 words. Please include a contact phone number, email and postal address. Entries should be emailed to info@lockstock.biz.