

# News

## BELVOIR SUPPORT SAFE SCHEME

The double award-winning national lettings specialists Belvoir, who have an office in Meanwood, are helping to promote the recently launched SAFE scheme for lettings agents across the country.

As an agency that prides itself on building strong and trusting relationships with its clients and outstanding customer service, it is proud to be one of the founding members of the scheme. Dorian Gonsalves, the managing director of Belvoir Lettings, says: "It mirrors Belvoir's three core principles of professionalism, specialism and high-quality customer service."

The main aim of the scheme is to stress how crucial financial protection is when going into the lettings industry - either as a landlord or a tenant. Joint-owner of Belvoir's North Leeds branch, Robert Adams, adds: "Finances are obviously hugely important to both landlords and tenants, however they sometimes overlook the importance of knowing that their money is safe in the hands of their agent."

The SAFE scheme, which stands for Safe Agent Fully Endorsed, aims to highlight those agents which keep their tenants' funds safe and secure. All member companies are awarded the SAFE mark, which has been welcomed by the Trading Standards Institute as an easily identifiable kitemark related to financial protection.

## GREENHOUSE OPENS CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Greenhouse development in Beeston, which comprises eco-friendly housing and offices, is now introducing to the city one of the first ever environmentally sustainable conference suites.

To celebrate the launch, Greenhouse invited businesses country-wide to come and enjoy a VIP summer picnic at the newly developed Greenspace facility. They put on a super-green picnic of fresh, homegrown, organic food from their very own Green deli, while guests enjoyed entertainment from the Leeds-based Britain's Got Talent Entry Dazl Diamonds.

The event offered businesses a chance to view and enjoy what Greenspace has to offer and to network with like-minded companies. The event also promoted the benefits of CRM (Corporate Social Responsibility) and aimed to get businesses thinking about the new and exciting ways they can become more environmentally friendly.

The new space was created by sustainable developers Citu and offers a 10ft projection screen, video conferencing facilities and superfast internet - said to be the fastest in Leeds. Citu marketing director Fraser Stride says: "Greenspace is a really exciting alternative for businesses who want to create an event with a difference, that's bound to get people talking about it for all the right reasons."

## MERRION CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

The Merrion Centre is undergoing a £1 million external refurbishment in order to refresh its appearance and also to welcome two new businesses.

The refurb - which is expected to be finished by the end of the year - is seeing the Merrion Street and Wade Lane side of the centre undergo a facelift. This will include new shop fronts for existing tenants KRCS, Stewart's News and Greggs, who will remain open throughout the work, as well as a brand new branch of KFC (the city centre's first) and a Coral bookmakers, which will move into the complex this November.

It is said the refurbishments are an attempt to give the Merrion Centre a fresh look before the opening of the Leeds Arena in 2013 and they arrive alongside developments elsewhere in the city, including the new Trinity Leeds and nearby Eastgate Quarters.

Town Centre Securities, who are carrying out the renovation, have planned granite columns and brand-new lighting to give this side of the building a new look. Helen Beckett, associate director at the company, says: "This substantial investment, which includes the introduction of high-quality materials, will significantly improve the look of the centre, bringing benefits to all." Alex Johnson

## City Life

We find out about your life in Leeds

Name: Nick Reynolds

Age: 29

Occupation: Sales assistant at Aspecto



### Where do you live?

I've lived in an apartment at Roberts Wharf with a friend for around two years now.

### Do you enjoy living in Leeds?

Yeah I really like Leeds. I love being so close to all the action - all the bars, shops and restaurants. All my friends live here too, so it's great to be nearby to everyone.

### Where do you go on a night out?

I usually stay around Call Lane. I really like Jake's Bar, it's always got a really great atmosphere. I quite like Mojo bar as well, the music in there's great.

### What are your favourite shops?

I'm a bit of a bargain hunter so for clothes I tend to stick to places like Topman and Zara - and of course Aspecto!

### What's your favourite restaurant?

It's really hard to pick one because there's so many. I don't really have a favourite but I do love Little Tokyo, good food, good sushi. Normans does some really nice food too.

### Is Leeds a safe place?

Well, touch wood, I've never had any trouble in Leeds so I think it's fairly safe. I'm from Bradford originally and in comparison I feel much safer here, especially in the evenings.

### Have you done anything interesting in Leeds recently?

If I'm honest I've mainly just been working recently because I'm saving up for my holiday in Ibiza later this month. I did go to Cocoon In The Park at the weekend which was great but I'm really just looking forward to going away.

## Correction

In our last issue, we referred to 'Blue Apartments at Granary Wharf' as part of an article in which we also printed the web address [www.granarywharf.co.uk](http://www.granarywharf.co.uk). We would like to clarify that Blue Apartments are not part of IS15 Waterside Regeneration's Granary Wharf development or its website [www.granarywharf.co.uk](http://www.granarywharf.co.uk) and we apologise this was not made clear in the article.

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