

WHAT A GREAT JOB

MP is delighted with firm creating Haven to employ disabled

By ALISON RENNIE

A LEADING politician was full of praise for a social enterprise firm which employs people with disabilities after being given a guided tour of their Renfrewshire HQ

David Mundell MP paid a visit to Haven Products, in Hillington, where he was able to chat with bosses and a number of employees.

He also learned more about Haven Recycle – a new business venture which specialises in waste electrical and electronic equipment recycling.

And Mr Mundell, who is Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, learned about Haven's Complementary Workforce – an initiative which enables Haven employees to work with partner organisations.

He said: "Haven Products is a great example of the social enterprise that this government is keen to encourage in a bid to provide sustainable employment for people

with disabilities.

"The employees themselves left me in no doubt of the value that a realistic work environment provides to their lives. I was very impressed by their commitment and enthusiasm."

Haven Products is part of Momentum, a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating since 1946, when it was established to provide employment for injured military personnel returning from the Second World War.

It now employs 130 people between its two sites in Hillington and Inverness. More than 80 per cent of its employees have a disability.

David Whyte, from Haven Products, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Mundell to our Hillington facility and to give him an insight into our work."

"Many people with disabilities face barriers to employment but, with the right support and training, they can realise their full work potential in a wide range of jobs.

"We are proud to be providing employment for disabled people, as well as delivering high-quality services to our customers."



ASSEMBLY LINE: David Mundell chats to Derek Nelson, who has worked at Haven Products since 2005



PRIZE GUYS: Renfrewshire Council Leader Derek Mackay popped into the RWCU offices in Paisley to congratulate staff on their Rocco award

Staff get credit for going that extra mile

CARING staff at a Paisley credit union who help Buddies save up for a rainy day have been handed a special award.

The Renfrewshire-Wide Credit Union won the ROCCO Social Enterprise of the Year gong after workers were praised for going the extra mile to help members grow their savings.

RWCU aim to ensure that Buddies are equipped with the confidence, access, skills and knowledge they need in their financial matters and the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce recognised their efforts at a gillyzy ceremony staged at the Normandy Hotel, in Renfrew.

Karen Graham, RWCU operations manager, said: "Everyone here is delighted as the award recognises the value of the work we do, not just on behalf

of ourselves but for the wider credit union movement too.

"There's a long-standing tradition of credit unions in Renfrewshire, so the award felt like a pat on the back for the work we all do.

"The award recognises the wide range of financial products and services we deliver, including shopping discounts via our Shop&Save member reward card, which can be used in local shops and with local tradesmen, such as electricians and tilers, to gain access to exclusive discounts and special offers.

"Examples of other services are savings off the price of energy-efficient white goods, commission-free foreign currency and access to low-cost, affordable loans and savings."

For more information on the Renfrewshire-Wide Credit Union, go to www.rwcu.co.uk

Cadets go on the run

A GROUP of air cadets reached new heights when they took part in an annual race.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Cross Country Championships took place at the Strathclyde Police Recreation Centre, in Pollok Country Park, and the standard of competition was extremely high.

More than 50 cadets completed the three-mile course, with the first in each age range receiving a medal as a reward.

Four cadets from the 2175 (Rolls-Royce) Squadron, based in Paisley, competed in the event and have been praised for their efforts.

Flying the flag for Paisley were 15-year-old Shane Rae and his sister Shannon, who is a year younger, as well as 14-year-old Rachel McLean and 17-year-old Connor Macleod.

Connor won a bronze medal in the Young Men's category and declared himself satisfied with his afternoon's work.

He said: "I was really pleased to come third."

A spokesperson for the 2175 (Rolls-Royce) Squadron added: "It's great to see young people pushing themselves to achieve something in sport."

Running is just one of the many activities undertaken by members of the squadron, with flying, gliding, target-shooting, adventure training and much more also on offer.

Anyone who is interested in joining the air cadets should visit their base at 81 Glasgow Road, Paisley, on parade evenings, which take place on Wednesdays and Fridays between 7pm and 9.30pm.



HIGH FLYERS: Air cadets Rachel McLean, Shannon Rae, Shane Rae and Connor Macleod are pictured with their commanding officer, Suzanne Callan