

Press Release: Date: 30, March 2005: For Immediate Use.



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

STEPHEN LADYMAN MP VISITS DOG AND DUCK LEISURE PARKS

Dr Stephen Ladyman, MP for Thanet South, today visited the Dog and Duck Leisure Parks near Canterbury to see for himself the opportunities the park provides for local people, local wildlife, and holiday makers.

Stephen, who is also a Government health minister, was given a tour of the leisure park to view the conservation projects which have earned the park its David Bellamy Conservation Award, including the recently erected Barn Owl boxes which park owner-operator Sue Fagg hopes will support the local Barn Owl population.

Steve met some of the staff who help run the Dog and Duck Leisure Park and presented them with certificates for recently completing their "Welcome All" training, enabling them to provide enhanced accessibility for customers in the service they provide.

Steve then viewed artwork by the local primary school children who have benefited from a donation from the Dog and Duck to build more play facilities.

Stephen said: "It is great to see a socially responsible employer in my constituency putting the local community at the heart of its operations. The Dog and Duck take staff training seriously and it is reassuring for users of the park that capable and qualified staff help run it. Congratulations to all the staff who have achieved their "Welcome All" certificate which makes the Dog and Duck even more welcoming for everybody.

"The Dog and Duck is also aware of the needs of local wildlife and recognises the contribution caravan parks across the UK can make to increasing and maintaining biodiversity. It was good to meet the local primary school children responsible for the delightful artwork and I am glad to see that the Dog and Duck is forging links with the school."

David J. Emanuel, Business Manager and Partner of the Dog and Duck Leisure Parks said: "Gaining our "Welcome All" certificate means my colleagues and I are qualified to ensure the park is accessible to everyone who comes here. I enjoy working in the Caravan Industry for the wealth of experience and variety my career offers me. My day to day responsibilities include the running of the park and the adjacent public house. No day is really 'typical', because dealing with the public you always have to expect the unexpected! I relish the challenge of working with people and have developed good "people skills" during my time here, backed up with day courses run through Caravan Industry Training (CITO). There is a great deal of diversity in this line of work. For example, a few years ago the park acquired an orchard and we are developing it with wildlife in mind,"

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Dr Steven Ladyman MP is MP for Thanet South and Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health.
2. The Dog and Duck Inn and Leisure Parks are in Plucks Gutter, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1JB.
3. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
4. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
5. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
6. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com
7. SkillsActive is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which will define the Sector's skills needs and ultimately form an agreement between employers, Government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.