

In Brief

Applications open for apprenticeship hopefuls

EAST YORKS: School and college leavers can now apply for Humberside Engineering Training Association (Heta) apprenticeships.

Heta offers level-three advanced engineering apprenticeships in electrical, mechanical, instrumentation, welding and fabrication.

Young people with four GCSEs (predicted or actual), including maths, English and science are invited to visit www.heta.co.uk and apply for an opportunity to be a Heta apprentice.

Apprenticeships are available in Hull, Scunthorpe or Stallingborough, which involve a year's training before going into one of 200 companies for the apprenticeship.

Applications are open until Friday, April 11, and successful candidates will start in September.

Join big beach clean-up

EAST YORKS: Staff from Marks & Spencer's Hull branch are inviting customers to join them in a Big Beach Clean-up at Hornsea.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 30.

Customers who register in advance at www.mcsuk.org/foreverfish will also receive an M&S voucher on the day of the beach clean.

Director of retail Sacha Berendji said: "Our Big Beach Clean-up 2013 exceeded all expectations and made a significant impact on local communities.

"This year, our beaches and canals, and in turn our marine life, need us and our army of volunteers more than ever before."

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EAST YORKS: Church friendship group aims to encourage equality

Celebrating diversity to change prejudices

InShort

A LGBT friendship group for Christians has been launched. It calls for equality within the church.

by Joanna Hunter

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A RELIGIOUS friendship group for gay people has been launched to support those who face homophobia in the church.

The Hull and East Riding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Christian Fellowship calls for equality in the church, regardless of gender or sexuality.

The group celebrates diversity and also offers like-minded worshippers the chance to meet others in a similar situation.

It has been launched by Lucy Gorman, a gay Christian who is passionate about ensuring people are not forced out of the church as a result of inequality.

Miss Gorman, 24, of North Cave said: "There is still a stupid amount of stigma around Christianity and sexuality.

"Being 'out' in church means a lot of people face homophobia.

"There are still a lot of prejudices within the church and a big split in opinion on homosexuality.

"Christians who are LGBT often find themselves unheard, hurt and excluded within their churches."

Lucy, who works in advertising, reached out to other gay Christians by displaying posters in churches across the region, inviting them to join the group.

From there, she was contacted by seven people who wanted to join and the group was formed.

The members meet at an East Riding church, but the venue, dates and times of meetings are not advertised, for fear of reprisals.

In their first meeting, the group discussed passages in the bible that refer to homosexuality.

Lucy said the members want to change the minds of the homophobic congregation members so they can all worship together.

She said: "I have what I believe is a God-given passion for equality for LGBT people within the church and I will do everything in my power to gain that.

"As a group, we enjoy sharing our experiences, both good and bad, in living our everyday lives as LGBT Christians.

"Rather than our sexuality being



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS: Lucy Gorman, of South Cave, has launched the Hull and East Riding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Christian Fellowship. Picture: Simon Renilson

something that needs to be repressed or healed, we celebrate diversity in all its forms."

Lucy has been helped with launching the group by Gerald Fox, who responded to her posters.

Mr Fox, 46, who is a church warden at St Helen's in Welton said: "The group is there to support Christians but also to reach out to the LGBT

community who don't feel Christianity is something that they are able to explore.

"In a way, we are fighting on two fronts – the prejudices of people within the faith community but also trying to persuade the LGBT community to come and explore God and show them faith can make a real difference to their lives.

"I'm keen to do my bit to change attitudes and make the church a welcoming place for all members of the LGBT community."

For more information about joining the group visit www.lgbtchristianfellowship.co.uk

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Town's bypass project apprentices meet leaders

EAST RIDING: Council leaders met apprentices on the site of Beverley's £22m new southern bypass in support of National Apprenticeship Week.

Balfour Beatty project manager Martin Black said: "Balfour Beatty strives towards finding and investing in the next

generation of skilled workers.

"Of the five apprentices working on the project, three are completing general construction operations and two are working towards qualifications in civil engineering."

East Riding Council

leader Councillor Stephen Parnaby said: "It was a real pleasure to visit the Beverley southern relief road site and to speak to the apprentices working on the scheme about what they have learned and how they are putting that to use.

"Apprenticeships provide an excellent option for

young people to gain employment and allow them to earn while they learn."

Apprentice Ben Morgan, who is studying at Hull College, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the Beverley Integrated Transport Plan."



VISIT: Stephen Parnaby.