



MEDIA INFORMATION

September 28, 2009

Breakdown brings families together

A CAR care and maintenance company in Tavistock has this month (September, 2009) done more than repair people's motors it has also helped bring two families with autistic sons together.

After Anne Snell had to stop off at Tavistock Tyres, which is located on Plymouth Road Industrial Estate in Tavistock, for some urgent repair work she was introduced by the company to Allen Lewis and his son Paul and now their families have forged firm friendships.

Tim Schmid, Manager of Tavistock Tyres, explained: "We're used to fixing vehicles but this is the first time we've been involved in bringing people together who share a common bond and it was quite moving. Anne, who is from Lincolnshire, was visiting family in the area when she found she had a puncture in her car tyre and came to our centre to have it fixed.

"This is where she bumped into Allen and his son Paul, who are regular and welcome visitors to our depot. We sponsor and support Allen and his charity Tavistock Youth Café Plus Group, which cares for young people with special needs and he regularly pops in to keep us updated on the charity.

"Through helping Allen we got to know him and his family very well especially Allen's youngest son Paul, who is eight-years-old and has autism. Our reception area in Tavistock Tyres is full of information about Allen's charity and autism. Anne came in and started to read the information and was very intrigued, as her six-year-old son William has autism too."

Allen is following the Son-Rise Program with Paul, which is a treatment for children and adults challenged by Autism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), Asperger's Syndrome, and other developmental difficulties.

The Son-Rise Program teaches a specific and comprehensive system of treatment and education designed to help families and caregivers enable their children to dramatically improve in all areas of learning, development, communication and skill acquisition. All programmes are designed especially for parents to teach them how to effectively help and work with their children.

Anne said: "It was brilliant to meet Allen. I couldn't believe how he communicated with his son. After seeing the fantastic results the Son-Rise Program has had on Paul, my husband, Owen, and I are interested in looking at the programme as a possible route for William.



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“We will be keeping in contact with Allen and his family. Without having a puncture and going to Tavistock Tyres I would never had met Allen and Paul. It is great that the outlet supports Allen and his charity.”

Tavistock Tyres, which is part of the Protyre team, is based on Plymouth Road Industrial Estate and specialise in providing tyres, exhausts, batteries, services, vehicle repair work and MOTs.

Allen said: “It was great to bump into Anne at Tavistock Tyres. I know what her and her family are going through with William, it’s such a challenge having a child with autism as my wife, Sheena, and I know. I was very pleased to talk to her about the Son-Rise Program and how it has helped Paul. It has changed him so much and he can now attend a main stream school.

“Without Tavistock Tyres supporting my charity we wouldn’t have met Anne. The depot has brought our families together and we will be staying in touch and supporting each other.

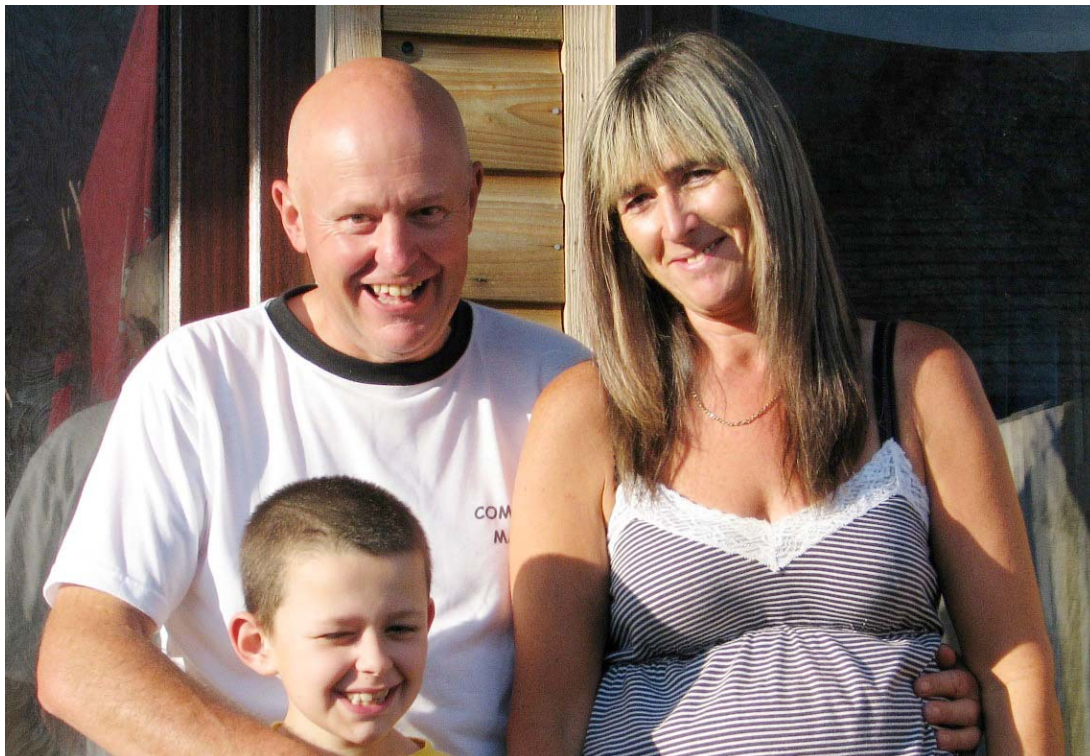
“I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to Tim and the team at the centre for their continued support. It is greatly appreciated. It also shows how local businesses like this are a vital part of our community.”

To find out more, please visit Tavistock Tyres, which is located at Unit 23 on Plymouth Road Industrial Estate, Tavistock or call the company on 01822 617966.

Snell Family



Lewis Family





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ENDS

Notes to Editors

Micheldever Tyre Services and Protyre

Micheldever Tyre Services (MTS) was founded in 1972 as a part-time venture providing car servicing and tyres. Today, the company is the largest independent wholesaler, distributor and retailer of tyres in the UK. Selling six million tyres in 2008/09 – 20 percent of the total UK market – annual turnover for 2009/10 is forecast to be over £283 million. In addition to offering MTS car, motorcycle and off-road tyres MTS also fits exhausts, brakes and shock absorbers.

MTS has two main business units:

- The Protyre retail chain, currently with 36 outlets including Protyre Motorsport, continues to gain geographic coverage in the UK through new acquisitions.
- MTS has established a wholesale distribution network of 12 sites around the UK supplying over 4,500 retailers nationwide. This activity has resulted in significant profitable growth for the company.

MTS is managed by a team headed by Paul Fox and Richard Sawney with backing from Graphite Capital and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).