

Ledbury & Area Development Trust Limited
P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Release on Tuesday 24th March 2009

Donation supports local, young entrepreneurial businesses

The Ledbury & Area Development Trust (LADT) has received a donation of £2,000 from the Rotary Club of Ledbury to help provide facilities for local, young entrepreneurial businesses in the Old Cottage Hospital Studios, Ledbury.

“This generous donation will be used to equip ‘Studio 6’ and will enable us to offer it for use by our tenants and outside organisations for business meetings, workshops, and seminars,” commented Roger A. Payne, the Trust’s Chief Executive. “We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Ledbury.”

“The donation will also enable us to set up our ‘Studio 6’ project through which we will offer an annual membership to local business people who are currently ‘home-based’ workers. They will be able to book time in ‘Studio 6’ and use the facilities including a ‘hot-desk’, internet connection, meeting space, photocopying, printing – and have a cup of coffee. The scheme will be launched in April 2009,” added Mr Payne.

David Tombs, President of the Rotary Club of Ledbury, together with fellow members of the Rotary Club, handed over the donation at a brief ceremony at the Old Cottage Hospital Studios on Monday 23rd March.

Commenting on the donation Mr Tombs said, “we are delighted to be supporting this local business initiative and are keen for our involvement with LADT to continue so that together we can support the growth of young entrepreneurial businesses in our town.”

[Release ends]

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Note to Editors

The Ledbury & Area Development Trust (LADT) supports continuing regeneration in and around the Herefordshire Market Town of Ledbury. It is an independent, entrepreneurial organisation and any profits it makes are used for the benefit of the local community.

LADT played a key role in the refurbishment of the Old Cottage Hospital and now manages the 8 Studios in the building ranging in size from 61 sq ft (5.7 sq m) to 382 sq ft (35.8 sq m) primarily targeted at local, young entrepreneurial businesses - focused mainly (though not exclusively) on the creative industries.

In addition, LADT completed a £25,000 consultancy project on the Master's House in Ledbury outlining 9 key recommendations for its future use – based on extensive local consultation. This resulted in April 2008 in Herefordshire Council agreeing to provide £2.92m to implement the key recommendations – including creating a new library.

LADT is currently working on a plan for the potential future uses of the Barrett Browning Institute in Ledbury.

LADT was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 5th January 2005 and became a full member of the Development Trusts Association in February 2005.

Photographs - attached

Photo 1 - Left to Right

Roger A. Payne, Chief Executive of Ledbury & Area Development Trust receiving donation cheque from David Tombs, President of the Rotary Club of Ledbury with members of LADT and Rotary in attendance

Photo 2 – Left to Right

Roger A. Payne, Chief Executive of Ledbury & Area Development Trust, and David Tombs, President of the Rotary Club of Ledbury with the first tenant in the Old Cottage Hospital Studios - Jules Schad, owner of Juice Jewellery.

End of Note to Editors