

Kent Business Update

Firm helps couple aid the disabled in Ghana



by Katie Alston
kaiston@thekmgroupp.co.uk

Fortimer Street,

started: We took it over initially Dempsey's.

business: We employ customers ourselves and we loved it so we bought it as I'd got tired anyway.

port in Herne Bay: It's a town. We also like to drink boozers. It's

ular services or goods:ignon Blanc.

three words: Friendly,

about working in:ing to the customers' son.

ing your business:ometimes we'll open until 2am the next morning to a minimum of 100.

is unique from:fferent atmosphere - we're much cosier and only wine bar in Herne Bay people tend to know and bar, unlike other customers want to be

ture for this business:nd our wine range.

ould you offer:usiness: Do your own experience of your before branching out

what would you do: e a B&B-cum-wine-bar where people could drink instead of

THE world leaders in wheelchair safety have helped a local charity to build a new community centre in Africa.

Whitstable based Q'Straint has been working with DESO (Disabled Equipment Sent Overseas), which is run by Canterbury couple Mavis and Eddie Hyde.

The duo, who are both in their 70s, having been helping vulnerable disabled people in Ghana since 2006. They were inspired after Mrs Hyde spent more than 50 years teaching in the country, and discovered that many disabled people were forced to get around using skateboards and piggy backs.

After hearing about the couple's work, Q'Straint set about buying land in Tema, Ghana, to build a community centre to support disabled people and the local community.

Once completed the building will provide a space for teaching, medical advice and a home for several local people who were previously living on the street.

On site will also be a farm, sports centre and playing field which will be used by the Accra Disabled Football Team, which DESO has supplied crutches for, for more than six years.

The two organisations are hoping that in the future the centre will help the commu-



The DESO team loading a shipping container bound for Ghana with an array of recycled mobility equipment from the UK

nity become self-sufficient.

Q'Straint managing director Mike Simmonds said: "We're delighted to be helping make such a huge difference in Tema.

"We continue to admire the commitment of Mavis and Eddie who provide an absolutely essential role in improving the lives of so many less able individuals.

"When you hear of people having to carry disabled relatives more than three miles to fetch water daily, in sweltering temperatures as they can't afford a wheelchair, I felt there was no choice but to support such an inspirational charity as DESO."

DESO director Mrs Hyde added: "Without the finan-

cial support of Q'Straint we would not be able to continue our work in Ghana."

"The opportunity given us by Q'Straint to buy land in Tema and subsequently build a new community centre, means so much to us and will give countless dependent and disabled Ghanians independence for generations to come."