

# lepbusinessday

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## markets

### local sharewatch

Company	Price	±%	High	Low
Amec	725	+1½	846½	377½
BAE Systems	338½	+4½	487	302½
cozyjet	378½	+15½	396	220½
Eperian	489½	-3½	500	27½
Fidel	32½	-3	198	30½
Home Retail	350½	+2½	314	163½
JJM Sports	25½	+½	132	2½
Johnston Press	19½	+1	73½	5½
Portwood Hlgs	37		118½	32½
Preston North End	106½		127½	106½
RSA Insurance Gr	126½	-3½	165½	113½
Scopa	14½		29½	9½
Speedy Hire	35½	+4	146	10½
Trotrek	26½	-1½	39½	9
Voxtek	666½	+10	829	371½
Whitbread	956½	+22½	1267	690

### exchange rates

Country	Rate	Currency
Australia	1.3101	dollars
Canada	1.7293	dollars
Czech Republic	28.14	korunas
Denmark	8.3573	krone

# Caring couple set for homes booster

■ DAVID COATES

A HUSBAND-AND-WIFE team have revealed expansion plans for a Preston care home they have just snapped up in a £1.1m deal.

Kim and Philip Richardson have now embarked on a £100,000 refurbishment programme of the 23-room The Knowle in Egerton Road in Ashton, Preston.

They also have plans to add a further seven on-suite rooms next year as they bid to make it one of the best facilities in the city.

Mrs Richardson, whose family runs five care homes in Blackpool and Cumbria, said that the refurbishment work was already under way with 16 rooms having been fully revamped in the last four months



EXPANSION PLAN: The Knowle

She said: "We are now starting work on the remaining rooms and then we will focus on the rest of the property. We have some big plans for developing the business further."

"I grew up in my parents' care homes and when my husband sold his company we started looking

around for a new business venture, and it seemed natural to return to the sector. I have very fond memories of growing up in the care homes, and it is extremely rewarding to see new residents blossom once they arrive. It is an exciting challenge."

The couple are also planning to launch a meals-on-wheels business later this year, which will provide meals cooked in their kitchens to elderly people in the Preston area.

They bought The Knowle, which employs 20 people, from its retiring owners who had run it for the last 22 years, advised by Manchester-based Redwoods Dowling Kerr.

Senior negotiator Gemma McCorkindale said: "The Knowle is an excellent care home with great potential, and we wish Kim and Phil every success in what will be an exciting new chapter."