

Entrepreneurs assemble

RTT reporter

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The Richmond Entrepreneurs' Conference is a must-attend event for anyone looking to start their own business.

A series of seminars organised by Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and supported by this newspaper, takes place on Wednesday, February 25.

The keynote speaker will be Joe Murray,

the founder and chief executive of Worldstores. Mr Murray lives in St Margarets with his wife, Amy.

He started the business, a part-technology company, part-retailer, with long-time collaborator Richard Tucker.

It sells more than 700,000 home and living products from 1,500 supplies across three brands – Worldstores, Casafina and Kiddicare.

But the journey began long before then,

with Joe's first taste of entrepreneurship coming at the age of 12, when he started selling free range eggs to villagers in rural Nottinghamshire.

After university, a five-year diversion to the City and regular 80-hour weeks, Mr Murray banked a small bonus cheque and, in 1999, left the UK to live in Madrid.

From there, Mr Murray's journey took in the dot-com boom and, in 2007, he started what would form the core of the Worldstores business model.

The company, based at Regal House in Twickenham, has 350 staff, and Mr Murray is working to build Worldstores' own large-item delivery fleet.

He is also planning TV campaigns and working on plans for overseas expansion.

Find out how it all happened at the conference at Richmond Adult Community College, from 2.10pm to 8pm, on February 25. For tickets and more information, visit richmondchamberofcommerce.co.uk.



Speaker: Joe Murray, the founder and chief executive of Worldstores

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Hamish Erskine, plumber in Exeter

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Man pleads not guilty to sex charge

A 23-year-old man from Hampton Wick has pleaded not guilty to charges of having sex with a girl aged 15, and one count of making an unwarranted demand of money from the

alleged victim.

Joshua Dubey appeared at Kingston Crown Court on February 10 charged with sexual offences alleged to have taken place between 2010 and

2011, and the blackmail and demands for money, that were allegedly made between 2010 and 2013.

Mr Dubey's trial is due to begin on July 20.

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In brief

BIKE THIEF: A thief who stole four bicycles worth more than £675 has been saddled with a curfew and a £125 fine. Adam O'Sullivan, 20, stole a pedal cycle from Teddington station on July 28, two bikes from Fulwell station on August 5 and another from Norbiton station on August 13. He was handed the community order at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on February 6 and will be electronically monitored to ensure he remains at his home in Burrow Road, East Dulwich, between 7pm and 6am until March 3.

CHILD'S PLAY: Children can take advantage of improved play areas, upgraded with help from a £230,000 investment from Richmond Council. Play areas at Murray Park, Hampton Common and Chase Green have been upgraded, with Hampton Common receiving £25,000 from the London Marathon Trust towards the project.