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Charity doubles business since moving base to a new location



SUCCESS: Poole-based charity Dorset Scrapstore is celebrating after moving to a new site earlier this year

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A POOLE-BASED charity, which supplies art and craft materials for the community, is celebrating its new-found success since moving to a new site.

Dorset Scrapstore, based at The Factory in Alder Hills, receives donations of waste manufacturing materials and re-uses them as a community resource for creative and educational projects.

The charity first opened its doors to the public in 1999, before moving to the current location in 2010 when it was a Remploy factory. In October,

2012, when Remploy ceased operations due to government cuts, Dorset Scrapstore moved to Boscombe, but in April this year it moved back to the Remploy building, which has since been extensively regenerated into a social enterprise hub run by the New Leaf organisation.

Vanessa Marsh, general manager at the Dorset Scrapstore, said: "We couldn't be happier about our move to The Factory – business has doubled since opening in April."

The Factory building was bought by Bournemouth Churches Housing Association in March, 2014 but because it had lain empty for some time, it was derelict and in need of repair.

However, through support from the Dorset LEP and The Talbot Village Trust, it has been transformed into a creative space for the community.

The Scrapstore provides an ever-changing supply of clean, safe and often random making materials, which have been donated by local businesses including Lush, Sunseeker, Simpli Pac, Aeroflex and BV Dairies.

Vanessa said: "We are now able to offer longer and more convenient opening times, free parking and access for the disabled, plus a range of workshops hosted on-site in the conference facilities, which is great news for the Dorset schools, community groups and families."