

AUGUST 2011



## Welcome...



Will Nixon

This edition of PM News is packed with news stories about positive opportunities for local young people. With the support of our Group charity, the Realise Foundation, in 2010/11 we were able to support 121 local young people starting a placement.

This is in addition to supporting 29 local employers providing an apprenticeship placement for a young person. Working in partnership with local employers is vitally important in providing opportunities and our work in relation to this continued at a successful supplier event with Staffordshire County Council in May.

I am also delighted to report in this edition of PM News that Furniture Mine and Borough Training have joined our recently created social enterprise arm Enterprising Futures and will operate alongside PM Training and Indigo Training. Both companies have done excellent work locally and I am excited about working with them.

Best wishes, **Will Nixon** - Chief Executive

## Scouting for Girls!

The Learner Forum at PM Training was very kindly treated to a live set by 'Scouting for Girls' earlier this month, thanks to Signal Radio.

The Forum was able to make song requests and had the opportunity for photographs and to talk to the band about their apprenticeships.



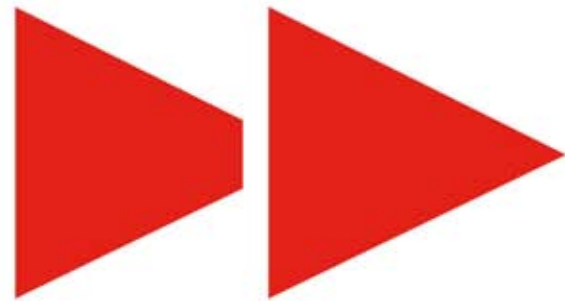
Pictured with Scouting for Girls: (back row, left to right) Jak Forrester, Tom Easto, Dan Cutter, Alex Spackman, Chloe Ash and Lauren Moore.

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# Furniture Mine joins the Aspire Group



**A charity which helps people in need by providing them with second hand furniture and appliances has joined the Aspire Group.**

Furniture Mine works with local councils and housing associations in North Staffordshire and Cheshire East to collect items which are then given to people to help them set up in their new home.

The charity employs 11 staff and supports around 12 volunteers who gain practical work experience to help get them ready for training or employment.

Furniture Mine works by collecting unwanted furniture and white goods through donations from the public and through contracts with local authorities for bulky waste collection.

These goods are then passed to people in need through referrals from councils, housing associations and other organisations.

Recent pressure on councils to reduce costs has led



Furniture Mine's trustees to seek a partner so it can achieve financial stability.

The Aspire Group will support Furniture Mine by providing support such as finance and human resources and by working with clients of PM Training and Aspire Housing to develop and grow Furniture Mine's services.

Last year Furniture Mine made collections from nearly 6,000 homes and supported over 7,000 people in need. It has operated for 21 years.

It operates from a warehouse in Registry Street, in Stoke town, Stoke-on-Trent, and has a showroom where people on benefits can also buy items.

Furniture Mine will retain its charitable status, its objectives and its name.



## Borough Training joins the Aspire Group



A successful training provider, Borough Training Services, has joined the Aspire Group, to expand the services the group offers, along with its client base and to support more learners across North Staffordshire.

Borough Training Services, based in Queen Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, was established in 1984, and operates with a small staff team who train around 100 learners at any one time.

The firm provides apprenticeships and tailored work-based learning for people wanting to progress in business administration, customer service, management and team leadership. The company has maintained a reputation for quality training through its long term relationships with a wide range of high calibre employers in the North Staffordshire area.

From 1 August Borough Training Services joins PM Training, a member of the Aspire Group, with current staff and their services fully integrated into those of PM. It will operate alongside the group's two other social enterprises – Indigo Training and Furniture Mine. This acquisition will broaden the impact of Enterprising Futures, the social enterprise arm of the Aspire Group.

Tricia Baker, of Borough Training Services, said: *"Since 1984 we have provided training for young learners to help them find work in the area. By joining the Aspire Group, we will be able to continue to provide this service and see it strengthen and expand across Staffordshire."*

## Successful TEP Tender

PM Training has successfully tendered for the delivery of up to 12 Transitional Employment Programme (TEP) placements for unemployed 17-18 year olds living in the city.

The Aspire Group delivered 43 TEP placements last year so this contract will build on last year's success.

Further details about the programme will feature on our website [www.pmtraining.org.uk](http://www.pmtraining.org.uk)



## Learners turn empty houses into new homes

**Proud PM Training learners celebrated their conversion of an empty property into an attractive three bedroom home which is now ready for new occupants who are on the Newcastle housing register. This is the first of a pilot scheme aimed at tackling the blight of empty homes.**

The Aspire Group's Youth Refurbishment project is an exciting and cost effective method of bringing disused properties back into use so they can meet local housing need.

Three houses are being renovated under a pilot scheme, using £105,000 funding from Renew North Staffordshire, the former housing market renewal pathfinder, and its own resources.

The project works by using apprentices and young learners from PM Training to carry out work such as stripping out existing fittings, plastering, decorating, joinery, carpeting, improving driveways and gardens. Structural alterations, central heating, and electrics are carried out by specialist contractors who will also employ apprentices from PM Training.

The property is then rented for social housing by Aspire Housing to an applicant on the Newcastle-under-Lyme or Stoke-on-Trent waiting lists.

The first of the three properties to be completed is in Castle Hill Road, just north of the town centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme. Formerly a business, this property has been transformed into a spacious three bedroom home, complete with a new fitted kitchen and bathroom with one of the bedrooms having an en suite with a shower. It also has room for parking and a good-sized garden at the back.

Will Nixon, Chief Executive of PM Training, said: *"Everyone's a winner with the Youth Refurbishment Project. We cut the number of empty houses, the apprentices gain the skills and experience to help them*

*find full time work, and we provide social housing for those in need."*

Apprentice Tom Easto said: *"It was great working on this project as I enjoyed seeing how an old shop could be converted into a home. I got a lot out of it in the last four months and have learnt so much about construction and refurbishment."*

Cllr Robin Studd, Cabinet member for regeneration and planning, said: *"Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council fully supports this excellent initiative."*

*"Empty properties brought back into use in this way provide much-needed affordable homes for families on the borough's waiting list while improving young people's skills and aspirations in the local area."*

*"There are also many other benefits for local communities such as improving the appearance of neighbourhoods, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing trade for local shops and businesses and increasing the value of neighbouring homes."*

The second property is a terraced home in King William Street, Tunstall, which has been bought and is under renovation. The third property will soon be purchased.





## PM Training helps make cancer victim's life easier

Millions of television viewers watched DIY SOS: The Big Build back in April which focused on the renovation of a terraced property in Bright Street, Meir, home to a family who could not afford to maintain it.

PM Training was involved in the 10 day makeover, at a time when being inspected by Ofsted.

Terminally ill Haydn Spice, his wife Jennifer and three daughters Sarah, 12, Sophie 7, and Sasha, 3, had lived in poor conditions since 2003 sharing one bedroom because the other bedrooms were unfit for them.

The show, hosted by Nick Knowles, showed the transformation of the property from a derelict building to an extended top quality environmentally friendly four bedroomed home.

Haydn, who has abdominal cancer, said: *'Now when I leave, my family will have a house that is safe and warm. It's fantastic.'*

*Accredited information, advice and guidance service from PM Training*

**PM Training was last month celebrating after demonstrating that it continues to meet the Matrix Standard for information advice and guidance services.**

The Matrix Standard is the government quality standard for any organisation that supports individuals, enabling them to make informed choices about their future.

The assessment took place over three days and included interviews with members of staff, learners, clients and partners.

The accreditation lasts for 3 years.

## More apprenticeship opportunities support local apprentices

The Realise Foundation, in partnership with PM Training, has been supporting local businesses and young people in creating apprenticeship opportunities.

Since April 2010 to March 2011 the Realise Foundation has been able to fund:

▶▶ Toolkits and training totalling £8,720 that has supported 121 young people starting an apprenticeship placement. The apprenticeships have been in

business administration, construction, electrical, engineering, gas, glazing, heating & ventilation, manufacturing, plumbing, warehouse & distribution.

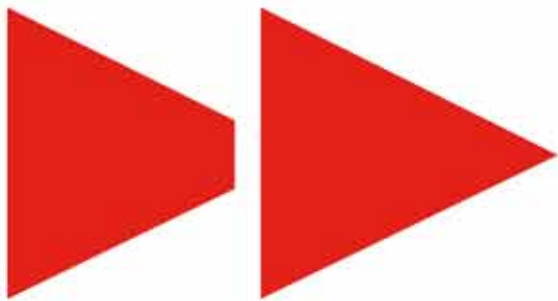
▶▶ Grants totalling £45,243 supporting local employers recruiting an apprentice. Via the scheme 29 companies were eligible to receive a grant – 4 were local sole traders, 21 were local small sized organisations, 4 were local medium sized organisations.

Funding will continue to be available for supporting apprentices during 2011/12.

For further information about the Realise Foundation please visit [www.realisefoundation.org.uk](http://www.realisefoundation.org.uk)

For further information about PM Training please visit [www.pmtraining.org.uk](http://www.pmtraining.org.uk)





Springhead pupils get on board their new play area

## Pupils' Projects Bloom

### Springhead Pupils Designs On Their Own Playground Pay Off

Pupils at Springhead Community Primary School, Talke Pits, are enjoying the results of their work after apprentices used their designs to improve their playground.

Children from years 5 and 6 were involved in the design for the imaginative play area, which included a mudbeast sculpture, maze, seating, and boat-shaped storytelling area.

The playground received an innovative makeover, thanks to a £12,500 donation from the Realise Foundation.

### School Enjoys New Garden, Thanks To Apprentices

Apprentices from PM Training helped to restore a garden for pupils at St Giles and St George's Primary School in Newcastle under Lyme to mark the schools fifth birthday.

Artworks Apprentices Jak Forrester and Dan Cutter helped refurbish a Victorian gate which dated back to 1895 and made a bench as part of the garden restoration project.

The school won the opportunity to create the memory garden after winning a competition set by the Realise Foundation.



Pupils at Springhead Primary School celebrate their new improved playground



## Staffordshire County Council Suppliers' Event Success

**The recent Staffordshire County Council Suppliers' event held at the Moat House, Acton Trussell, was very successful with 65 different companies attending.**

The Aspire Group had stands representing PM Training, the Realise Foundation and the Employment & Skills' Fit for Work service.

Speakers were Nick Bell, chief executive at Staffordshire County Council, Ian Simpson, head of procurement for Staffordshire County Council, Will Nixon, representing PM Training and Mark Davies, Director of BGC who provided an interesting company overview of working with PM Training.

Last but not least was apprentice Liam Nicholls who explained how his life had changed by being an apprentice. Liam impressed the audience so much that Ian Simpson offered him work experience at Staffordshire County Council in his procurement department.

## Local company Heatex Group to create 25 new 'Green Jobs' in the next 2 years



Heatex Group is an established local family firm with 20 years trading, during which time they have installed energy efficiency and carbon saving measures into well over 100,000 homes.

Today they are North Staffordshire's only one stop shop for Renewables, Cavity Wall Insulation, Loft Insulation, Gas Heating and Electrical works.

With an enviable staff retention record, and recognising that continuous investment in training and development is essential for improving the performance of its people and enhancing the services provided by the company; Heatex is working closely with PM Training to further develop the skills of its administration and management teams.

The company is committed to the

training and development of its entire workforce so that they continually have necessary skills to reach their full potential.

As Managing Director David Brough puts it *"The invaluable link that we have with PM Training assists us to achieve our strategic aims and objectives through increasing the skills and knowledge of our team... as we continue to grow and develop as a company we also remain fully committed to the recruitment of local people and to providing training and apprenticeship opportunities for them"*.

Specifically with respect to renewables, Heatex fully expects to be creating up to 25 additional jobs in its renewables business of which a third are likely to be on an apprenticeship basis and they

are working with PM Training to make this happen.

Heatex is a Government-approved installer under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme and is a member of the Renewable Energy Assurance Listed (REAL) assurance scheme so customers can have peace of mind knowing that they are being looked after by experts. They hold the MCS accreditation for Solar Thermal and Solar Photovoltaic's (PV).

Committed to using local suppliers Heatex uses local approved scaffolders to provide access to roofs (where necessary), and although solar panels manufactured in Staffordshire are rarer than hen's teeth, amongst the products they offer are Sharp PV panels which are manufactured in North Wales and sourced through a local distributor.

Company

# spotlight on...



## Kelly Molyneux & Co.

Kelly Molyneux & Co was established in 1978 by Melvin Kelly and Stuart Molyneux.

On 1st March 2011 Mark Lancaster, having worked for the firm for many years, became the third partner.

Acting on behalf of a wide range of businesses and individuals, mainly in the Staffordshire and Cheshire area, the firm offers accounting, taxation and business advisory and supporting services.

The firm has been awarded the prestigious 'Quality Checked' mark by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, following a rigorous

inspection by ACCA inspection compliance officers.

Many of its clients are based in the construction industry, including new build, industrial, and shop fitting, domestic extension and repair, CIS contractors and sub contractors.

Kelly Molyneux & Co provides an effective, high value solution to meet all financial needs. The staff work hard to get to know clients in order to deliver timely, individual advice on how to improve clients business and personal wealth.

Staff are always pleased to offer new or prospective clients a free initial

**Kelly Molyneux & Co.**  
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors

interview, without obligation either at our offices or at the client's premises.

The firm is pleased to have a beneficial working relationship with PM Training that has included being able to refer clients with training needs to them to get specialist, expert, training and development advice.

Kelly Molyneux & Co  
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## AM Access Delivering the complete package



### WHO WE ARE

AM ACCESS are part of the AM Scaffolding Services Ltd Group, a family run business which was established in 1985. AM ACCESS has brought together over 35 years of experience in specialist access solutions to deliver the complete access package. Our highly skilled

workforce have expertise and experience in;

- Specialist access design
- Construction
- Health and safety
- Training and Instruction

### WHAT WE DO

AM ACCESS provide the complete access package through hire of tracked access Spider Lift machines and highly skilled staff. Every access package includes;

- A site survey
- A qualified IPAF Operator
- A detailed handover
- Delivery to and from site
- On call technical support

AM Access are passionate about training their staff and customers, we deliver accreditation in;



- IPAF
- PASMA
- Working at Height
- Ladder Association Courses
- Harness Awareness, Use & Inspection

### OUR COMMITMENT

AM ACCESS are proud to deliver a service which responds to customers with the best access solution.

Unit G2, Great Fenton Business Park,  
Grove Road, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire ST4 4LZ

**Phone/Fax 01782 849100**  
**Web. www.amaccess.co.uk**





spotlight on... continued

## Home Instead Senior Care



Home Instead Senior Care is a company that specialises in providing care to older people across the world. The quality of care, affordability and accountability we provide have earned a deep level of trust amongst our clients, their families and thousands of health, medical and social services organisations across the world since forming in 1994.

The Newcastle under Lyme and Stoke on Trent area office is owned by Paul and Sandra Edden with the day to day responsibility for care being managed by Anne Johnstone, Care Manager. Paul helped to launch Home Instead Senior Care in Chester when the company first arrived in the UK in 1995 and spent four years working to successfully establish the company as a national provider of care. Paul and Sandra took the decision to open their own office in Wolstanton to fulfill their desire to provide exceptional care for older people in the local area, having seen at firsthand how Home Instead can make a real difference to people's lives in their own homes, as well as providing employment opportunities for people in the local community.

Paul and Sandra have recently appointed a PM Training Apprentice! Chelsea Mincher joined the office as an Administration Assistant in May. Chelsea is settling into her new role well and enjoys the contact she has with both the Caregiver's and our clients. Home Instead has seen the benefit of a close working relationship with PM Training and are supporting Chelsea to achieve her NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration. Paul was particularly keen to appoint an apprentice having started his working life (a long time ago!) as an apprentice for British Telecom in Herefordshire.

Home Instead can provide Personal Care Services, Home Help Services and Companionship Services from an occasional hour up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Above all else it is the quality of our Caregivers that we believe sets us apart. We take great care and pride in matching the client's personality, background and interests with those of our Caregivers. All Caregivers provide six references, undergo an enhanced Criminal Records Check, and are directly employed by Home Instead, who manages all insurance, tax, payroll and National Insurance charges. Regardless of any previous experience, Caregivers also receive comprehensive training, including an internationally recognised programme for supporting people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

The goal of the team is to provide the very best quality, reliable care within the Client's own home and to assist them to remain independent for as long as possible. They focus on working with the Client, their family members and any other agency involved in providing care services to ensure that Client's remain in full control of their care choices at all times.



Chelsea Mincher



Paul Edden

Please call us on **01782 622330** for more information,

or visit our website at [www.homeinstead.co.uk/newcastleunderlyme](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/newcastleunderlyme)