

JULY 2010

Welcome to PM Training



Will Nixon

Welcome to the latest edition of our e-zine.

In this issue we are extremely pleased and proud to update you on recent happenings at PM Training. This includes one of our Artworks Apprentices being successful at the West Midlands Apprenticeship Awards and one of Britain's leading social enterprise ambassadors visiting our training centre to celebrate the work we do.

We are also pleased to profile Rhodes & Cooper Decorators as part of our ongoing 'spotlight' feature. For more than ten years Rhodes & Cooper have supported the work we do and reaped the rewards and benefits an employer can expect from investing in their business through apprenticeships.

As always, we welcome your feedback about our e-zine so please contact us with any comments.

With best wishes

Will Nixon

OVERVIEW

▶ **Staffordshire success at West Midlands Apprenticeship Awards**

Jak Forester, 19, was the first apprentice at PM Training and he has been busy making his mark.....

▶ **Memory Garden Blooms**

Children at Seabridge Primary were determined to transform their overgrown school quadrangle into a ...

▶ **Social entrepreneur visits enterprise**

One of Britain's leading social enterprise ambassadors visited Stoke-on-Trent this is month to celebrate the work of PM Training in providing real life chances for young people.

FULLY FUNDED training available with PM Training

PM Training has funding available for persons aged between 19-24 years of age who are currently in employment and are interested in undertaking training in the following areas:

- ▶ Warehouse, storage and distribution
- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Gardening and horticulture
- ▶ Team leading
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Glazing
- ▶ Business administration
- ▶ Customer Services
- ▶ Painting and Decorating

So if you have family, friends or colleagues, currently in employment, aged between 19-24, that are interested in accessing the above training via PM Training, please contact Mike Canavan either on (01782) 279121 or email mike@pmtraining.org.uk



Jak Forester

Aspire Group Supplier Event

Every year, the Aspire Group spends over £35m on various of goods and services across its range of activities. We have a very strong social ethos and want to ensure that every partner we work with shares the same social ethos and values as ourselves.

We are looking to refresh the list of contractors and suppliers we work with and are therefore holding a "Key Supplier Event" on Friday 20th August 2010 at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent. The event takes place 9.30am - 1pm and will include lunch.

This event is open to both our existing partners and businesses who may wish to provide us with goods and services in the future. It is your opportunity to hear first hand about the work of the Aspire Group, the expectations we have of our partners, the support we can provide to enhance your Corporate Social Responsibility and the opportunities for your company to do with business with the Aspire Group both now and into the future.

As demand will be high for this event, availability to attend will be on a strictly first come first served basis. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact Michaela Meakin (mmeakin@aspirehousing.co.uk) by 9th August. We will then confirm your attendance and provide you with a programme for the day.

We look forward to seeing you at the event on the 20th August.

Staffordshire success at West Midlands Apprenticeship Awards

Jak Forester, 19, was the first apprentice at PM Training and he has been busy making his mark via a series of metal art creations as part of Artworks and his work can be seen around North Staffordshire.

Jak was presented with his West Midlands Apprenticeship Award at a ceremony hosted by the TV presenter Suzanne Virdee at the Hippodrome in Birmingham. The Awards are organised by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS).

Stephen Lilley, the West Midlands

Regional Director of the National Apprenticeship Service, said: "All the winners are fantastic examples of the value of Apprenticeships to individuals, employers and the region. They all deserve enormous credit for their achievements."

Will Nixon, Chief Executive of PM said: "PM Training is extremely proud that Jak's efforts have been recognised in winning this award. Jak typifies the apprentices from PM Training and is committed, diligent, and incredibly talented and is looking forward to a fantastic career."





Aspire Group Awarded Social Enterprise Mark

The stamp of endorsement tells customers that a product or service comes from a social enterprise, and is therefore creating a social or environmental benefit. It also allows organisations to demonstrate their commitment to local communities through social enterprise and regeneration, and differentiates them from other businesses.

The Group consists of Aspire Housing, PM Training and The Realise Foundation. PM Training, the largest social enterprise subsidiary of any UK housing association, became part of the Aspire Group in August 2008. Both Aspire Housing and PM Training have been awarded the Social Enterprise Mark.

Will Nixon, Chief Executive of PM Training, commented: "For us it is recognition that not only are we achieving our social goals, but as a business we are the top training provider in Staffordshire for enabling young people from disadvantaged areas to progress into apprenticeships and employment." PM Training has provided training and work placements for nearly 10,000 people since it was established in 1982.

Social entrepreneur visits enterprise

One of Britain's leading social enterprise ambassadors has visited Stoke-on-Trent to celebrate the work of a local training organisation that provides real life chances for young people.

Peter Holbrook, Chief Executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition, was keen to meet some of the teenagers that PM Training helps into sustainable training and employment.

His community-led approach to regeneration and passion to promote social enterprise as a model that can transform neighbourhoods is one shared by PM Training.

He spent time with apprentice Jak Forester, aged 19, who was recently crowned West Midlands Apprentice of the Year and also received a tour of Atlas Works, PM Training's workshop that recently benefited from a £2 million investment.

"PM Training is an inspirational example of how social enterprises can change lives and operate as a well-run business," said Peter. "The young people here have clearly come such a long way in their skills and confidence because of the training they receive. The money the company makes then provides further community benefits through a charitable trust." He added: "PM Training shows the great benefits social enterprise can bring to people, to businesses and to the wider community."

The organisation which operates as a social enterprise – a business with social objectives – is committed to the people and businesses it supports, and to further driving the successful regeneration of the area. It has already provided more than

10,000 training, job placements and permanent employment opportunities for local teenagers.

Nineteen-year-old Jak Forester was proud to share his success story with Peter during Thursday's (July 1) visit.

He said: "I went to college after leaving school but didn't enjoy it and so came to PM Training - it has changed me completely. PM Training gives you the right attitude for work and has built my confidence. It's great to see my work benefiting the community in different places around North Staffordshire too."

PM Training, the largest social enterprise subsidiary of any UK housing association, became part of the Aspire Group in 2008. Chief Executive Will Nixon welcomed the opportunity to highlight the benefits that the social enterprise has already brought to the region.

"We achieve the best results of any provider of our kind in helping young people get ready for work. PM Training now partners with more than 300 companies who provide apprenticeships," he said.

"This way of running a business helps to meet national and local government aims of providing skills, creating jobs and improving communities as we emerge from the recession."

The Social Enterprise Coalition is the UK's national body for social enterprise and represents a wide range of social enterprises, regional and national support networks and other related organisations. the country.

Part of the Aspire Group

NEW CHARITY PROMISES REGENERATION BOOST

A unique regeneration charity, the Realise Foundation, was launched on Saturday 17 July, aimed at supporting people and communities across North Staffordshire.

The Aspire Group has created the Realise Foundation to help improve the quality of life of local people, and the places where they live and work.

The Foundation will be supported by gift aid from PM Training, which operates as a social enterprise.

This will enable that company's surpluses to be reinvested in improving lives in the communities the Group serves by improving the external environment, raising skills, creating apprenticeships, encouraging learning, and helping people into employment.

Support will also come via donations from individuals and organisations, and project funding bids.

An endowment fund of at least £100,000 has been created to provide bursaries for learning, jointly funded by Realise and Staffordshire Community Foundation.

In all the charity is expected to invest more than £0.5m in the area and its people in the next 12 months.

The launch took place at an event at Trentham Gardens to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Aspire Housing.

Jonathan Wilkes, Patron of the Foundation said:

"The Realise Foundation will create life-changing opportunities for people and communities across North Staffordshire. It's a unique and inspirational charity, and I'm very proud to be associated with its work. I care passionately about the area and I'm particularly delighted that Realise is going to be giving young people the breaks they deserve,

and encouraging all residents to continue lifelong learning.

The Aspire Group's Chief Executive, Sinead Butters added:

"Aspire is a key partner in the region's social economic and environmental renewal and we are delighted to consolidate our support with the launch of the Realise Foundation. Our objective is to release the full potential of people and communities across North Staffordshire, helping the area thrive and its residents prosper. To achieve our goal, Realise will be forging partnerships with like-minded individuals and organisations and I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved alongside us."

Among other causes, the charity will earmark funding for grants to help people in further and higher education who are at risk of having to give up their studies because of financial hardship.

One of 12 bursary recipients already confirmed is Noppawan Malton who said:

"I have set my heart on a career in healthcare, but even though I work part time to help pay my course fees, it has been a struggle financially. Now, thanks to Realise, I am going to be able to continue my studies and pursue my dream of becoming a Theatre Practitioner. The grant has made a big difference to my future, and I am extremely grateful."

Also benefiting are pupils of Seabridge Primary School – many of whom live in homes rented from Aspire Housing - where Realise has helped transform an overgrown quadrangle into a tranquil memory garden designed by pupils, commemorating relatives, friends and pets they have lost.

At its launch Realise confirmed it is kick-starting around 15 environmental schemes, and supporting 100 apprenticeships.

Spotlight On ►

PM Training and Rhodes & Cooper Decorators



PM Training and Rhodes & Cooper have worked jointly on apprenticeship programmes for more than ten years. During that time a number of success stories have been a result of an effective partnership including Rhodes & Cooper investing in excess of thirty work experience placements and apprenticeships with one of PM Training's tutors completing their painting & decorating apprenticeship with them 5 years ago.

Established in 1997, Rhodes & Cooper Decorators pride themselves on Quality Workmanship. With a workforce of ten, ranging from time-served apprentices to tradesmen with over 40 years experience, they have experience of decorating a wide range of premises including:

- Private Residences
- Exterior & Interior
- Hospitals
- Industrial Offices
- Commercial Offices
- Shops
- Schools

All projects, both large and small, are carried out with high levels of care, customer service and attention to detail.

They have established themselves as one of the leading commercial painting contractors in the Midlands. Their teams of operatives undertake contracts with the minimum disruption and at times to suit the operation of customers' businesses.

As a painting and decorating contractor, their skills range from, the redecoration of an office environment, out of hours redecoration projects for hotel and retail customers through to the skilful restoration both internally and externally of listed buildings.

For decorating needs, contact:

Rhodes & Cooper
19 Coleridge Road, Stoke on Trent, ST3 2ER
Telephone: 07712 936756 or 01782 444816

Rhodes & Cooper are members of the British Decorators Federation



Special Offer.....

Waterworld are offering a discounted entry price to staff, learners and apprentices of PM Training, until the end of September. To claim the discount, a form of ID will need to be taken to Waterworld along with this voucher.

PM TRAINING

VALID UNTIL 30/09/2010

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- ▶ Investors in Diversity
- ▶ Artworks Launch Exhibition
- ▶ Apprenticeship Grants