

## A DAY AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

**Steph Steadman, Widening Participation Co-ordinator for Taunton Deane, was invited to the House of Lords in recognition of her excellent partnership working with the Langley House Trust.**

The Langley House Trust works with people who are ex-offenders; establishing positive foundations so that they can go on to lead crime-free lives and make a positive contribution to society. The invitation came as a result of a project she had developed alongside The House of St Martin in Norton Fitzwarren which is a residential centre for ex-offenders. The project aimed to reconnect ex-offenders with learning and to help them to achieve skills that will be beneficial in easing them back into society and the world of work. Learners undertook a range of activities including bread making, Tai Chi, mosaics, golf tuition and bike maintenance.

Matt Wall from Langley House said, "The bread making was a huge inspiration for many of the residents, one of whom has gone on to be employed as a trainee chef with an ambition to be a pastry chef. From the project, thirteen learners have progressed onto further learning which includes literacy and numeracy support, NVQs, bike maintenance qualifications and construction industry training."

Steph commented "The day was really interesting. Patron, Jonathan Aitken spoke at the event and having been in prison himself felt he could relate to the ex-offenders. He said one of the most challenging things about being released from prison is the lack of structure they face in the outside world. Being released from prison can be frightening and if you don't have support it is easy for these men and women to re-offend."



Matt Wall from the Langley House Trust (left), Steph Steadman (centre) and Mark Gritten from 'On Your Bike' (right).



## Campaign Provides Opportunities for People in Somerset!

Somerset Skills & Learning, the National Apprenticeship Service, Somerset Chambers of Commerce, local colleges and training providers hosted an event to celebrate the success of 'Get Somerset Working' in one hundred days campaign.

*'Get Somerset Working' is the second project between Somerset training providers and local colleges. May 2011 saw the huge success of 'Recruit 100 apprentices in 100 days' which resulted in 515 job opportunities for people of Somerset.*

More than 80 guests attended the Somerset County Cricket Ground on Friday 10th February, to mark the end of the 100 days; which delivered 156 new jobs through the Apprenticeship route, plus 123 work experience opportunities.

Following a buffet lunch, networking and an opportunity for photos, speeches were made by the Employment Skills Board, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, Morrison's and the National Apprenticeship Service. If you want to be an apprentice or want to employ one, please call **01278 426 828** or e-mail **SS&LEnquiries@somerset.gov.uk**



## Summer Brochure available now!

Autumn brochure available from 18th June **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** - Enrol by 31st July and receive **10% off** selected courses. Call **0845 688 0488**



# Blow Yer Own Trumpet

**A special performance by participants of the 'Blow Yer Own Trumpet' course took place on Catherine's Hill in Frome.**

A course called 'Blow Yer Own Trumpet' was supported by Learning Community Funding (LCF) and the Widening Participation Team and was run in partnership with Drum It Up, the Street Bandits and Music Speaks / Creative Factory. Drum It Up, the lead partner, is a Social Enterprise and educational organisation that runs confidence building courses and team building sessions using African Drumming and percussion as the medium to increase self-esteem and build confidence.

Tanya Sherriff, who plays trumpet and is the

co-partner in Drum It Up, had the idea to combine her two passions by running a course to encourage people to return to playing their instruments. Tanya said "There are lots of people who used to play instruments but are rusty and haven't played for years and I thought it would be great to reignite their enthusiasm and reconnect them with making music."

Tanya went on to say "Once people felt comfortable in the group we did some playing and improvising and then went on to learn two tunes with base lines, tune and vamps. There were lots of different instruments, saxs, trumpets, flutes, piano accordions, melodica, trombone and even a mandolin! This made an

incredible sound but meant we had to really think about how we structured the tunes so every instrument could shine and be heard!" At the end of the course participants had the opportunity to take part in a special performance on Catherine's Hill in Frome.

The project leader said "To see and hear 30 people playing such lively tunes in the rain was amazing and really rocked the hill. It was great to see friends and family of the participants dancing around and everyone enjoying themselves."

As a direct result of this course eight people went on to join the Frome Street Bandits and will be rehearsing over the winter with a view to start playing in the spring.

**NLDC Group 'In Touch Project' Wins Heart of Somerset Community Award**



The In Touch Project, supported by the Widening Participation Team, has won first prize in the recent Heart of Somerset Community Awards. The project is based in Wells and is designed to help individuals who are affected by someone else's drug and alcohol addictions known as 'concerned others' across Somerset. The group were supported through NLDC (now Learning Communities Funding) to deliver a highly successful initiative to provide learning opportunities to aid their recovery. The project included learning activities such as creative writing, basic IT skills and a PACT (Parents and Carers Training) course.

Sue Holmes, volunteer project leader said "Being nominated to begin with felt like a huge privilege - someone had recognised the hard work that was taking place to try and make a difference to others. When the announcement was made 'and the winner is In Touch Project', I sat in disbelief. There is so much stigma and shame regarding alcohol and drug use, that I was overwhelmed that people had still chosen our project. I felt an enormous pride for the small contribution that we are beginning to make to the community."

## Fitness Pathway Apprenticeship - Fit for a full time job!



**Rachel Staffe Level 2 Apprentice on the Fitness Pathway is presented with her certificate**

**by SS&L Tutor Assessor Michelle Reynolds.**

Rob Tonkin, (also in the picture), Club Manager of Images Fitness Centre, Yeovil, also rewarded Rachel with the offer of a full time fitness instructor post.

Rachel is keen to develop her skills and has re-enrolled with us to do her Exercise to Music Certificate with a long term view to follow this up with a Personal Trainer Level 3 Certificate.

Rob, was so impressed with our service

and quality training that he is expecting to recruit another Apprentice. This could be one of our existing online L2 learners who on completion of their level 2 could progress to a level 3 advanced Apprenticeship.

Small/medium businesses such as Images Fitness Centre, contrary to popular opinion, make up the majority of fitness gym providers in Somerset and whilst it is easy to work with large companies such as 1610 (leisure trust), it is more gratifying to help a small company, through the Apprenticeship requirements, develop and adopt the national industry standards for policies and procedures. For example, Images now do a gym equipment monthly checklist which is fully recorded and customers are made aware of timescales for repair.



# Are you in the Employer's Training Maze (ETM)

Deciding on training is easier when a new rookie joins the company. They usually start at the bottom of the ladder and work towards an Apprenticeship at Level 2.

They then progress to an Advanced Apprenticeship – to become a competent and skilled employee, with the ability to apply current best practice within their particular trade. Sounds simple and it can be...

***BUT what about your current workforce, that have been working with you for a while?***

- Perhaps new technology is impacting on their job role, requiring new or additional skills; or maybe your business is diversifying to keep ahead of the competition and employees require different skills and knowledge
- Or you have promoted an employee to supervisor or manager and they require new skills to lead the way

This is the time training can become a maze.

Your employees and business need new skills to further develop, but what?

***Somerset Skills & Learning can guide you through the ETM.***

**We** can help you create a training plan to develop your workforce to improve efficiency and productivity.

**We** can provide the training for your staff at a time and place convenient to you.

**We** can advise on government or specific funding available to your business.

To find your way out of the **ETM**  
email: [busdevall@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:busdevall@somerset.gov.uk)  
or telephone 01278 426 828.



**\*Employers!**  
**\*£1500 available!**  
**\*Apply now!**

**Apprenticeship Grant for  
Employers (AGE) aged 16 to 24**

For all the details visit:  
[www.learnsomerset.co.uk/employers](http://www.learnsomerset.co.uk/employers) or  
email: [busdevall@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:busdevall@somerset.gov.uk) and  
a member of the Business Development  
Team will be in touch.

## Employers - Got a Vacancy? Think Apprenticeship!

We deliver a high quality, efficient and no cost recruitment service, taking the strain out of finding the right employee. Check out [www.apprenticeship.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeship.org.uk) where we will advertise your job vacancy, find you suitable candidates, initially assess them and short list before you interview and make the final decision.  
Email: [busdevall@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:busdevall@somerset.gov.uk)

## NEW - Level 3 Qualification - Learning & Development

The Learning & Development programme is a new Advanced Apprenticeship designed for people working in a paid position within an organisation, facilitating learning; they could also be working on their own or as part of a wider team delivering or organising learning in a variety of settings including the workplace, schools, family centres and training establishments.

The qualification is designed to add value, ensuring the apprentice has the job skills and knowledge applicable to their role as well as the underlying skills to be able to operate as an effective employee. The apprenticeship framework of training and assessment includes:

- Level 3 Certificate in Learning and Development (QCF)
- Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)
- Functional Skills in English, mathematics and ICT
- Employee Rights and Responsibilities (ERR)

For further information please contact:  
Ruth Crooks on [RECrooks@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:RECrooks@somerset.gov.uk)

# SS&L Apprenticeship Awards 2011



## Starting a Bread Making course in 2009 saw the rise of Ronnie's learning journey

In 2008 Ronnie suffered a nervous breakdown and as a result of this, experienced a complete memory loss, having no recollection of her life prior to the breakdown. This was a very difficult period, but after spending some time in hospital she eventually returned home and with the support of her family started to piece her life back together.

Ronnie's learning journey began when she plucked up the courage to attend a Bread Making and Sculpture session. The SS&L Disability Team suggested a support worker to give her confidence. It wasn't long before she had made a new group of friends and she was enjoying the social aspect of the session as much as the learning.

This positive experience gave her confidence to do further learning including, flower arranging and even a computer class. Ronnie said "Instead of feeling like a confident 59 year old woman, ready to start my new venture, I felt like a 5 year old girl, on her first day at school. But my fears were banished when I was welcomed with a beaming smile from Andrew, my tutor."

## Winners for 2011 are:

### Apprentice of the Year

Ann Marie Hervey  
Employed by 1610, Shepton Mallet

### Advanced Apprentice of the Year

Pepper Gibbs  
Employed by The Stags Head, Dunster

### Employer of the Year

Matrix Solutions UK Ltd  
The company is based in Taunton.

## Awarded Highly Commended Certificates

### Apprentice

Rachel Staffe – Employed by Images Fitness Centre  
Emma Doyle – Employed by Eileen Wain/Health & Social Care

### Advanced Apprentice

Katie Owen – Employed by Somerset Skills & Learning/Business Skills  
Charlotte Perry – Employed by Wyvern Nursery Group/Childcare



If you would prefer to be sent future editions of our newsletter by email, or if you have any information or comments to share, please contact marketing on 01935 410 555 or email: [SS&LEnquiries@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SS&LEnquiries@somerset.gov.uk)



RNID typetalk

To request this document in an alternative format contact marketing on 01935 410 555



Funded by

