News from the Jersey Employment Trust

Ambassadors acknowledged

THE achievements of 23 JET Ambassadors were acknowledged at a special breakfast this month.

The JET Ambassador programme was launched in memory of the late Dean Lowe, who was described as JET's greatest ambassador. The programme brings together people from different walks of life who share a passion for diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Over the past 18 months, JET Ambassadors have volunteered hundreds of hours, helping across different aspects of JET's work, including reviewing CVs and conducting mock interviews, hosting work insights, delivering neurodiversity training and getting involved in fundraising events.

Opening proceedings at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, fundraising and relationships manager Caroline Spencer said that although conversations with employers about disability and long-term health conditions in the workplace were getting easier, there was still work to be done.

"Barriers still exist. Stigma still exists," she said. "Too many talented people still face unnecessary obstacles to work, training and opportunity. That's why Ambassadors matter. Each of them is helping to tell our story. Each of them is helping to challenge assumptions and helping to create opportunities for others.



■ Emma Burns was thanked for her work on the Ambassadors programme

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>
> Emma Burns

"Dean's legacy is alive in every conversation, every challenge overcome and every opportunity created."

Caroline thanked Emma Burns, JET employer engagement and development lead, for turning the idea of JET Ambassadors into a vibrant reality. Emma told the gathered audience of Ambassadors, trustees, staff and guests that just one hour of an Ambassador's time could be transformational.

"A CV review might take you 30 minutes. A mock interview might take an hour. A mentoring conversation may seem like a small gesture. A work insight could be just another morning in your diary.

"But for our clients, these moments can be transformational. You help people build confidence, recognise their strengths and explore opportunities they never thought were possible," she said.

"You help them connect with employers and industries they may otherwise never have accessed. Most importantly, you help people believe in themselves.

"That impact cannot always be measured in spreadsheets and statistics. It is measured in confidence gained, opportunities created, ambitions reignited and lives changed."

Kenan Osborne, from Magellan Consultancy, one of the first JET Ambassadors to sign up, said that the progress made had only been possible because the Ambassadors chose to give their time, energy and influence to "a cause that matters".

"JET is not simply a charity. It is a vital part of Jersey's social and economic fabric," he said. "Every day we support people to overcome barriers, develop confidence, gain skills and access meaningful employment. The benefits reach far beyond the individual clients of JET. They strengthen families, businesses and our wider community.

"To our business community, I encourage you to become even more involved. Whether through employment opportunities, mentoring, advocacy or partnership, your support has the power to change lives. Inclusion is not something that belongs to our charity alone, it is something that should sit at the heart of every successful organisation.

"Our vision as Ambassadors for the future is simple: we hope we reach a point where diversity and inclusion are no longer topics that require special attention, because they are woven naturally into every workplace, every boardroom and every corner of our beautiful Island economy."

●You can read more about the JET Ambassadors on our website:
jet.co.je/about-us/jet-ambassadors



■ Right: Eleven of the 23 JET Ambassadors are pictured at the thank-you breakfast. Back row: Matt Tabb (trustee), Sarah Sleep, Neville Benbow (trustee), Ryan O'Connell, Kenan Osborne, Hayley Routier, Sue Gill, Tina Palmer, Sofia Marques and Ramanathan Harihara. Front row: Matt du Heaume, Sasha Russell and Ana Cengic



Minister visits Acorn's HQ



■ Social Security Minister Elaine Millar and her assistant minister, Deputy Phil Romeril, recently visited Acorn. They are pictured above in the bikes workshop with staff and clients

THE new Social Security Minister visited Acorn recently to see first-hand how our work is helping Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition build skills, confidence and routes into employment.

Accompanied by Andy Hacquoil, chief officer of Employment, Social Security and Housing, and Assistant Social Security Minister Phil Romeril, Senator Elaine Millar toured the different workshops and met members of the Acorn team. Here, they are pictured in the bikes workshop with staff and clients.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with the minister and her team as we work towards a shared goal of helping more Islanders access meaningful opportunities for learning, skills development and employment.

Becoming 'Future-Fit'



■ Ian Roberts (centre) with JET executive officer Penny Shurmer (blue dress) and David Rose (left), Kerry Robinson (second from left) and Lesley Gilmour (right) from JET's "green team"

A SUSTAINABILITY adviser whose expertise has helped shape Acorn's environmental strategy and support successful funding bids has been honoured with a special Acorn trophy.

As co-founder of Acacia Ltd, Ian Roberts has worked closely with Acorn, using the Future-Fit Business Benchmark, a recognised framework which helps organisations understand, measure and improve their sustainability performance.

JET executive officer Penny Shurmer said: "Over the last two years, Acacia's insights into sustainability strategies have not only strengthened our approach but have directly supported us in securing several significant grants. Ian's ability to turn complex sustainability challenges into clear, practical action has made a real difference to our organisation.

"We're grateful for his insight, encouragement and ongoing support."

David Rose, Lesley Gilmour and Kerry Robinson are part of JET/Acorn's environmental team and have been working closely with Ian on the implementation of the Future-Fit Business Benchmark within Acorn.

Kerry said: "The Future-Fit model is a brilliant framework for organisations to adopt, and Acorn's values align well to its principles.

"At Acorn we have already introduced electric vans and installed solar panels. We are now focusing on the waste that we produce as an organisation, how we measure this and any greenhouse gas emissions and what we do to reduce them."

Supporting hundreds of people over 18 years

EMPLOYMENT services manager Emma Powell will be leaving the Jersey Employment Trust in early November.

Over the past 18 years, Emma has made an outstanding contribution to JET, supporting hundreds of people to access employment, training and personal development opportunities.

Her commitment has helped individuals build confidence, develop skills and achieve their goals. A passionate advocate for our clients, Emma has always gone above and beyond to ensure people received the support they needed to overcome barriers and succeed. She has also played a key role in shaping the employment service into what it is today.

She will be returning to her hometown in Wales to begin an exciting new chapter.

First jobs

JET employment services manager Emma Powell (pictured, right)

I worked on the tills at Tesco in Swansea. I look back at it with fondness, though I probably didn't at the time, when I was sitting on the tills for five hours on a Saturday without a break. I didn't realise it when I was 16, but the experience and the working environment provided a solid foundation to build upon. It reinforced what my key skills were, which steered me towards my vocation and future roles.

It emerged I was a good communicator and people person. I thoroughly enjoyed the interactions with customers, to the point where I had my "regulars". People would readily wait in a queue to be served by me.

Receiving my first pay packet was wonderful – what a sense of freedom. It was great to not have to ask my parents for money.

The additional benefit of a staff discount card was a bonus, especially at Christmas.



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