

News from Jersey Employment Trust

The highlights of 2025 at Acorn

JET fundraising and relationships manager **Caroline Spencer** looks back at an eventful 12 months at Acorn

WE welcomed the Lieutenant Governor His Excellency Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd CBE and his Chief of Staff Major Justin Oldridge to Acorn in March. They were given a behind-the-scenes tour taking in Acorn Reuse, the Woodshack, the plant nursery and Acorn Training & Development sessions. His Excellency was presented with a wheelbarrow made by Acorn Training & Development clients. JET executive officer Penny Shurmer said the visit had been incredibly uplifting, with His Excellency showing great interest in all that goes on to support Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition.



■ The Lieutenant Governor and Major Oldridge are pictured in the Woodshack with JET chief officer Penny Shurmer and (left) Ian Florence, Acorn technical team leader

A bushy-tailed fun run

The inaugural Squirrel Run, sponsored by TMF, was held in March to mark what would have been Dean Lowe's 50th birthday, raising nearly £15,000 in the process. We had 80 people dressed as squirrels running through town. It was a very inclusive event and "very Dean". He would have loved it. We now hope that this will become an annual event.

■ Islanders went nuts for Acorn in March by dressing as squirrels and running through town, from Wests Centre to the Royal Square Pictures: ROB CURRIE (41450353)



Plastic recycling workshop

A new workshop has been set up at Acorn for the recycling of plastics. Thanks to funding from the Butterfield Charitable Trust, we have equipment to crush and melt old chocolate tubs (Quality Street, Celebrations, etc), DVD covers and plastic bottle tops, and turn them into new products such as plant pots, sunglasses and bowls. We can also make filament for 3D printers, generating an income as well as creating new work and training opportunities. Hundreds of tubs have been donated at the two Coop Grand Marché stores, and they can also be dropped off at Acorn's donations centre or café, and at Butterfield at IFC6.



■ Sarah Sleep and Carl Winn from the CI Coop, Danielle Le Cuirot-Dobson from Butterfield Group, and Acorn fundraising lead Georgia Hodgson in the plastics workshop

Acorn entered a new partnership with property management and estate agency Gaudin & Co, helping to raise awareness of Acorn's mission as well as promote reuse initiatives to an even wider audience. Gaudin & Co Company Director Nick Jewell said: "We are extremely fortunate to live in a caring and generous community that looks after the best interests of those less fortunate. In the case of Acorn, this means providing opportunities for belonging, employment, and training for Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition. We feel that this is the perfect charity with which to align our business."



■ Gaudin & Co Company Director Nick Jewell with Acorn fundraising team Georgia Hodgson and Caroline Spencer Picture: DANNY RICHARDSON

Riding high

Maillard & Co property management company donated 68 unclaimed bicycles from their properties, all of which we refurbished and sold. We also raised the profile of our bikes project at Cycle Sunday events and the Super-Tri, thanks to the kind invitation of our friends at UBS.



■ Maillard representatives Paul Baxter, Vicky Phillips and Andy Golding with Acorn Training & Development Co-ordinator Tim Le Bruilly and clients Aaron and Kevin

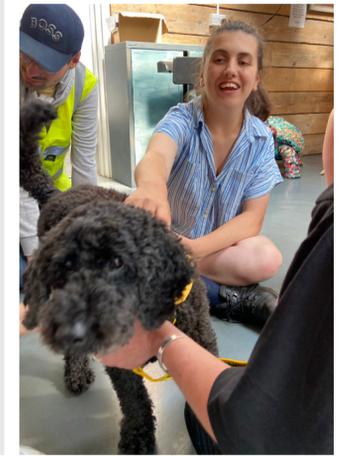
■ Four clients took part in a horticultural training programme held in conjunction with Highlands Adult & Community Education. Based at the Philip Mourant Centre in Trinity, just over the road from Acorn, the training and work experience was aimed at young people who had shown great potential in this area. All participants now have a pathway towards employment and valuable information to include on their CV. We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Jersey and the Education Department for funding for this project.

■ We secured funding for two electric vans, which will be charged from our own solar panels. We already have solar panels on the roof above the café and this year we installed a further 30 panels on the Reuse building. We are hugely grateful to the Roy Overland Charitable Trust, the Jersey Community Foundation, the Association of Jersey Charities, PwC, and the Robert Hall Foundation.

■ Start-up wildlife habitat brand BrdBx was launched at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with a backdrop of a stand made from waste timber by the Acorn Woodshack. The BrdBx range of eco-friendly, hand-crafted bird, bat, bug and hedgehog boxes was the brainchild of Jersey resident William Davies.

And finally...

A therapy dog called Monty has joined the team, visiting every two weeks. The ten-year-old poodle passed his suitability to be a therapy dog with flying colours in May. He is often seen at Trinity Parish Hall where his owner Debbie Le Motteé is parish secretary.



Looking ahead to 2026...

JET Jaunt, 10-13 Sept

Teams are already signing up for the third JET Jaunt, which is going further than before. The Race to Rome will take participants across Europe by public transport, but with a few challenges and surprise checkpoints along the way. Last year, the Jaunt – which was sponsored by CSC, Ports of Jersey and All Island Media – raised £27,000 for JET. For more details or to sign up, go to: tinyurl.com/JetJaunt26

Squirrel Run, Sat 25 April

The 2026 Squirrel Run – sponsored by TMF – will be held in collaboration with the Lowes Legacy Fund. The first squirrel run was held last March to mark the 50th birthday of the late Dean Lowe, who was killed in a hit-and-run alongside his son Charlie. This year, the event is moving to Jardins de la Mer and organisers hope that by holding it on a Saturday lots of families will take part. Watch our social media for further details.

White Collar Comedy Jersey, Wed 1 April

Organised by JET Ambassador Kiley Henley, White Collar Comedy Jersey is a new stand-up comedy challenge raising funds for JET. Eight participants will have eight weeks of training before performing a five- to ten-minute stand-up routine at a comedy night at The Sundown. Kiley said the challenge was about getting people to step outside their comfort zones: "We're seeking people with ordinary jobs and unreasonable confidence to take part in the event."

"Participants will take part in a development programme including comedy coaching, confidence training, stage presence, weekly mentor sessions – and plenty of laughs along the way." To find out more about taking part, sponsoring or attending, email kiley.henley@jet.co.je



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■ Left: JET trustee Dave Chalk gives the briefing at the start of the JET Jaunt last September, as fellow trustee Matt Tabb captures the moment, and above: JET Jaunters have to check in at certain landmarks to show that they reached a checkpoint and completed a challenge. Pictured here are Danny Cole and his daughter, Amelia