

News from the Jersey Employment Trust

'JET is part of our DNA now'

Magellan Consultancy have been partnered with the Jersey Employment Trust since 2021. At their summer party to celebrate their tenth anniversary last month, they were given an acorn-shaped trophy in recognition of their work. By **Caroline Spencer**

WHEN Kenan Osborne was shown around Acorn five years ago, he didn't know that he would become a JET Ambassador, or that his son would be using our services.

But on the day that he and his colleague saw behind the scenes, they came away knowing that they wanted to support the charity.

Although the partnership was initially for three years, there is no sign of it ending.

"This is a relationship, I think, which will just carry on," he said. "I can't see this ever going away now, because it's become part of our DNA. It's not a case of, will we? We have to, and we want to.

"I think businesses forget that they can give time, time to talk to people who might not know anything about their industry. A business, no matter how big or small, can make a big difference and a big contribution to a whole cohort of our society who need that help."

The Magellan team have supported JET through two of its toughest periods, first with the tragic loss of Dean Lowe, and then with the government funding issue at the start of this year.

Kenan chaired the working group that was set up to consider what the Dean's professional legacy would look like. It culminated in the setting up of an Ambassador Programme. What began with eight founder members has grown into a vibrant network of more than 20 ambassadors, representing different sectors of the community. What unites them is their shared passion for what JET does and breaking down barriers in society.

Kenan's own son Owen is neurodiverse and has support from JET. He is currently attending sessions at Acorn on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"What he's doing there is an absolutely vital part of his mental health; getting out of the house, getting a routine, doing something that he feels positive about, that he

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To have this in recognition of something that we're just so passionate about was the icing on the cake, because we've always made it clear that we value being part of [the JET] community

Kenan Osborne



■ Kenan Osborne with the trophy marking Magellan's tenth anniversary

can take control of," Kenan said. "He was so happy the other day. One of his pieces sold for £20 and he was over the moon. He feels he's making a valuable contribution. We can see his confidence is improving.

"We all know people with neurodivergence and how challenging it's been, particularly through lockdown. We've got to get this right. We've got to make sure that people don't fall through the cracks because there's this large cohort of young people whose social world shrunk so rapidly in lockdown."

As a gesture of appreciation for Magellan's remarkable support, JET chief executive Penny Shurmer presented a Woodshack-crafted acorn trophy to members of the Magellan team at their tenth-anniversary summer party, something that Kenan

was delighted to receive. "To have this in recognition of something that we're just so passionate about was the icing on the cake, because we've always made it clear that we value being part of [the JET] community," he said.

Looking ahead, Kenan says the next big challenge is with AI.

"Roles and opportunities are changing because technology now can potentially do some of our work."

"When Owen was at Waitrose, his biggest skill was doing the reconciliation of the supply of goods to getting them on the shelves. No one liked doing spreadsheets and data. He loved it, that attention to detail, being able to match things up. And

from what I can gather, he was the fastest one at doing it.

"Technology now potentially could do that but it still needs a four-eyes check at the end of it. Would they give that check to someone like Owen? Or would they give it to a manager? That's where some of the challenges lie.

"And that's where Dean would have been focused. He'd be so close to businesses now and saying, 'OK, so these opportunities are slowly slipping away. How do we look for the new set of opportunities?'"

"And that is the challenge I hope my fellow business leaders pick up and run with, making our Island truly inclusive now and for the future."

First jobs...

HUNDREDS of teenagers in Jersey are enjoying their first summer jobs. It can feel daunting, but exciting, the chance to earn their own money and make new friends.

We asked some trustees and JET Ambassadors about their first jobs.

JET ambassador Kevin Lacey

My first job in my mid-teens was selling potatoes for a local farmer.

They used to run five of us around in the back of a little Rascal van and we'd jump out and split up around the housing estates selling bags of freshly picked potatoes.

They weren't the same quality as Jersey Royals but it helped earn me some money.

I remember a bag of potatoes falling from the van and the farmer ran over them. We all had to get out and help pick them up and she said: "Looks like we're having mashed potatoes tonight!"



■ JET ambassador Kevin Lacey

What did I learn? It was how to work hard, how to work in a team and to make sure I never went to the farmer's house for a tarmac and mash supper!

Could you become a JET digital mentor?

THE Jersey Employment Trust is looking to connect with professionals in the digital sector who may be interested in becoming mentors for some of our clients.

Many of our clients are keen to explore careers in areas such as digital marketing, data analysis, software development, cyber security, web design and IT support.

Mentoring could involve sharing career insights, discussing pathways into the industry, offering guidance or helping build confidence and networks.

To find out more, please email emma.burns@jet.co.je.

Get in touch

■ If you have a story that you would like to see on our community or feature pages, please email thomas@allisland.media with a few details and preferably a contact number so we can give you a ring



■ JET is seeking digital professionals to mentor clients interested in careers across the sector

JET Jaunt: The Italian job

THE third JET Jaunt, sponsored by CSC, sets off from St Malo on 10 September. Participants will race from St Malo to Rome in a format inspired by the TV programme Race Across the World. We are grateful to all our sponsors and supporters, including Coop Mobile, Ports of Jersey and All Island Media. There is still time to sign up: Go to jet.co.je and click on the pink JET Jaunt logo.

JET set to Supertri

WE will again be involved in the Supertri this September, alongside corporate partner UBS, which sponsors the event. Through employee volunteering and support for JET's internship programme, UBS has played an important role in helping us create employment opportunities for Islanders with disabilities and long-term health conditions. Supertri attracts top professional athletes from around the world for a weekend of racing and entertainment. Members of the JET team are looking forward to being part of the Corporate Challenge.

Helping to mould Acorn's future

THE organisers of the TMF Island Walk have donated £10,729 to Acorn's new plastic recycling workshop, which will greatly help towards the purchase of either a new machine and/or new moulds. We took part by providing volunteers at the finish line and participating in the TMF One Challenge, a more accessible leg of the route.

School leavers – we can help!

AS another group of students leaves school this summer, many young people will be thinking about their next steps – whether that is further education, training or entering the world of work.

For school-leavers who have a disability or long-term health condition, the transition can sometimes feel daunting.

That is where the Jersey Employment Trust can help.

JET supports Islanders to develop the skills, confidence and experience needed to move towards employment. Its team works closely with young people to understand their goals, build independence

and connect them with opportunities that match their abilities and aspirations.

Employment co-ordinator Mel Oxenham said: "The message to school leavers is simple: if you're unsure about what comes next, or would like support in finding work, training or work experience, get in touch. We are particularly keen to reach students who are not returning to education. An early conversation can help create a clear pathway."

JET is also asking local employers to help. Work experience placements can make a life-changing difference to a young person's confidence and future career prospects. They provide valuable insight into the workplace, while allowing employers to discover enthusiastic new talent.

Many young people are keen to work but might have more barriers to overcome and need that first opportunity to demonstrate what they can do.

Businesses of all sizes can play a role. Whether it is offering a short work experience placement, a supported internship or an entry-level job opportunity, employers can help young people gain the practical skills and experience they need to succeed.

JET provides guidance and support to both sides throughout the process.

● To get in touch, email melissa.oxenham@jet.co.je.



■ Mel Oxenham

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or via the QR Code

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