

News from Jersey Employment Trust

JET – ‘just enough training’ – leads to success in the Jersey Marathon

All the latest news from the Jersey Employment Trust. By JET fundraising and relationships manager **Caroline Spencer**

A PROPERTY management company is supporting Acorn by donating unclaimed bicycles from their properties. Maillard & Co have given 68 bicycles so far this year.

Last month they visited the team at Acorn in Trinity to find out what will happen next to the bikes.

Acorn Technical Team Leader Ian Florence said: “Acorn sells more than 500 bikes each year and that includes everything from hybrid, mountain and road bikes to modern, vintage and children’s bikes. They are all professionally refurbished, with a 24-point safety check by our qualified technicians.

“As you invest in a new life for one of our bikes, you’re also investing in new skills for someone from our Acorn Training & Development Service.

“Our bike workshops are used for supervised training to help someone with a disability or long-term health condition



■ Acorn training and development co-ordinator Tim Le Breuilly (centre)
Picture: WOUT ROOSENBOOM

work towards their goals.

“This was a tremendous donation from Maillards. On average, we can sell each bike for £60, so this is effectively a donation worth over £4,000 to us.”

Maillard & Co manager Paul Baxter said: “At Acorn Enterprises we’ve seen first-hand the dedication, hard work and commitment behind the scenes that go into providing meaningful work and training

opportunities for Islanders living with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

“It was inspiring to witness how previously used bicycles are carefully reconditioned, giving them a new lease on life and bringing joy to many for years to come.

“Maillard & Co are proud to be part of this journey and will continue to donate unused bicycles to support the incredible work of Acorn Enterprises.”

Supertri success story

The Jersey Employment Trust was represented at the Supertri League Jersey event last month thanks to their partnership with official sponsor UBS Global Wealth Management.

JET’s squirrel mascots could be spotted cheering on the athletes in the “Fanzone” and raising awareness for the charity. JET’s social enterprise, Acorn, also benefitted from Supertri’s presence in Jersey.

Their bike workshop manager, Tim Le Breuilly, observed Supertri’s lead technician in action during the pre-race athlete bike check, gaining valuable insight into elite-level bike servicing.

Tim said: “I really enjoyed seeing someone at the top of their game working on the bikes of world-class athletes, and meeting Jonny Brownlee.

“Everyone was very interested in the work that we do at Acorn in relation to bikes, and how our clients are learning mechanic skills, which can be transferred to future roles and which boost their confidence.”

Before managing the bike workshop at Acorn, Tim worked in a couple of cycle charity roles in Scotland before returning to the Island.

Tim recently completed his Level 3 mechanics training and is looking to establish a framework for delivering vocational qualifications in bicycle maintenance to clients, who have a disability or long-term health condition. He is a keen adventure cyclist who previously completed the Baja Divide and is a British Cycling Level 2 Trail Leader and a MIAS Mountain Bike Tutor Level 4.

JET-powered run

They hoped that they had done “Just Enough Training” to complete the Standard Chartered Jersey Marathon – and they had!

Wolf Pack Social Run Club members Matt Tabb and Allie McMahon completed the marathon as a two-person relay, raising £1,250 for JET.

Allie, who is business development director at Quilter Cheviot, said that being asked to run for JET had sparked a personal reflection.

“Growing up in Dublin, my older brother John was born with cerebral palsy. Organisations like JET were instrumental in helping him transition from education into meaningful employment, building his confidence, independence and sense of purpose. JET continues to do this life-changing work for individuals with disabilities in Jersey, and I’m honoured to support them.”

Allie loved the atmosphere on the day: “The changeover point at Quennevais was like a night out, the buzz, the excitement, the cheering, everyone waiting on tenterhooks for their partners!

“Matt came through looking spritely so indeed the ‘just enough training’ did the job.

“The last 10 miles wasn’t a breeze – luckily, it was downhill for most of the way.

“I was spurred on by the community of Jersey and the amazing support from everyone, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us and who helped us raise much-needed funds for such an amazing charity.”

Matt added: “It was a really enjoyable run in the end. The weather was great and the support all along the route was really inspiring.”

There is still time to sponsor Team



■ Matt Tabb and Allie McMahon completed the Jersey Marathon between them in support of Jersey Employment Trust

JET here: sportsgiving.co.uk/sponsorship/team/27622

Meet Monty – a firm favourite at Acorn

Every two weeks Acorn has a very special visitor – a therapy dog called Monty.

The ten-year-old poodle passed his suitability to be a therapy dog with flying colours in May. Monty is often seen at Trinity Parish Hall where his owner Debbie Le Mottee is parish secretary.

Acorn’s Wellbeing Coordinator Lesley Gilmour said: “Clients and staff have already said that they love Monty. He helps

to brighten up their day and helps people to feel calmer.

“Studies show that meeting a therapy dog can increase the mood-boosting hormone oxytocin and lower the stress hormone cortisol after just ten minutes. It has also been found that staff find their workday to be more satisfying after interacting with a therapy dog – and we are already seeing that.”



Members of the Under-25s team will be attending the Jersey Skills Show on Wednesday 22 October.

Throughout the day, 2,000 school pupils will be bussed to the event, which attracts 100 exhibitors and employers who are keen to give career advice and inspire young people.

Under-25s Employment Co-ordinator Mel Oxenham said: “We would love to hear from anyone who wants to find out more about what we do and how we can help people who have a disability or long-

term health condition – and that applies to young people and their parents as well as employers who may be able to offer work experiences and job tasters. We will have interactive activities at our stall to help open discussions and raise awareness.”

■ The Jersey Skills Show will be held at the Royal Jersey Showground from 10am to 4pm, with a quiet hour from 12 to 1pm, when it will be less busy and more accessible. It is open to the public from 3 to 4pm.



■ Paul Baxter (manager residential property), Vicky Phillips (property manager) and Andy Golding (estate manager) with Acorn training and development co-ordinator Tim Le Breuilly and Acorn clients Aaron and Kevin

Fascinating Aida Live at Jersey Opera House



Britain’s greatest cabaret trio return with their sharpest, funniest, and most fabulous show yet.

After over 40 fierce and fabulous years, Fascinating Aida are still at the top of their game.

Join Dillie Keane, Adele Anderson, and Liza Pulman for an evening of razor-sharp satire, outrageous humour, and unforgettable songs.

If you’ve been delighted by Dogging, sung along to Cheap Flights, or shared their rudest ever Christmas song, don’t miss your chance to see these unstoppable performers live on stage.

Thursday 30 October, 7.30pm

Tickets: £35 – £40

Age Guidance: 14+ (contains strong language and adult humour)

Book now: www.jerseyoperahouse.co.uk | 01534 511115

