

News from the Jersey Employment Trust

No one should be excluded from the purpose that work provides

When corporate services firm CSC came on board as headline sponsor of the JET Jaunt, they asked what else they could do to support the charity. It led to more than they expected. By **Caroline Spencer**

BEFORE her placement, finance was the last industry Izzy expected to work in. She thought it would be “soulless”. Three CSC work placements later, she discovered there was so much more to it.

As lead sponsors of the JET Jaunt, CSC asked what more they could do in partnership with the Jersey Employment Trust, and were told that interview skills, CV writing, and providing hands-on roles within its business were all valuable ways that the firm could offer support.

Over the past four months, CSC has offered three work placements to Izzy, allowing her to experience many different aspects of the business, from reception and compliance to legal and business operations.

This wasn't about shadowing or filing. It was about real responsibility. Izzy supported key business tasks, contributed to projects and got involved in wider team activities.

Katie Grant, expert people and culture business partner at CSC, said the experience benefited everyone involved, creating opportunities for mentoring, leadership and growth.

“It's not only opportunities for the JET client, but also for the business as well,” Katie said. “You learn a lot about yourself as an individual and as a business. We say

in our mission statement that our people, partners, clients, and communities must be better off tomorrow than they are today. I think that's where JET and CSC have really aligned.”

Izzy began building her confidence from day one. During her placement, she developed a wide range of new skills and discovered new interests.

“I learnt how to use various software,” she said. “I really enjoyed the anti-money laundering training and reformatting policies and procedures.”

“I found the whole experience to be eye-opening. What surprised me most was the variety of departments and the intricacy of the law within these types of companies. I was also surprised to find that I enjoyed the environment and the role.”

A supportive workplace made all the difference to Izzy's experience.

“The team was lovely,” she said. “They were able to fit me into a private workspace, so that I could work better but still be close enough to ask for help or ask questions.”

The placement has had a lasting impact on her confidence and future direction.

“The feedback from CSC and JET has been extremely helpful,” she said. “I can now see I have certain strengths and capabilities that I may not have seen before. I realised that I am a very fast learner.”

Angharad Southern, CSC's head of legal in Jersey, added: “CSC's work with JET is incredibly important because of our shared values around inclusivity. JET helps transform individuals' potential into a valuable contribution. This approach ensures that no Islander is excluded from the dignity, purpose, and independence that meaningful work provides.”

“Inclusive employment is not just a social good, it makes economic common sense.”

CSC's message to other employers thinking of offering a placement is simple: “Go for it. Don't let anything hold you back,” Katie said. “The talent is there. We're just not necessarily giving some individuals a chance.”



■ Izzy with Hemingway (Angharad Southern's dog) during a walk-and-talk meeting

“Feedback from team leaders was so positive that they all wanted Izzy on their team.”

Offering work experience doesn't require huge change, just openness, flexibility, and a willingness to start the conversation. But the impact can be life changing.

If your organisation could offer a placement or would like to find out more, we'd

love to hear from you. Please email emma.burns@jet.co.je.

● The JET Jaunt, sponsored by CSC, is being held from 10-13 September. Participants will race from St Malo to Rome in a format inspired by the TV programme Race Across the World.

To sign up, please go to jet.co.je and click on the pink JET Jaunt logo.



■ Angharad Southern, Izzy, Katie Grant and JET employment co-ordinator Diane Clarke

The skydiver strikes back: Val jumps again



■ Three years ago Val Gavey was met by three Stormtroopers and an ITV Channel Television news crew on the beach at the GUNsite

ISLANDER Val Gavey is once again taking the leap for Acorn.

On Sunday 23 August, she will be skydiving to raise funds for Acorn, where she works across different projects, including our newest plastic repurposing workshop.

This will be Val's seventh skydive in support of local charities, so she is no stranger to jumping out of a plane.

Last time she skydived for Acorn was in 2023, when Val, a huge Star Wars fan, was met by Stormtroopers and a ITV Channel Television crew on the beach – as she always watches the local news every night. She celebrated with a glass of champagne.

If you would like to support Val, please donate here: tinyurl.com/ValSkydive26.

First jobs...

HUNDREDS of teenagers in Jersey are embarking on their first summer job out of school. It can feel daunting, but exciting, giving them the chance to earn their own money and make new friends, even if their role is dull.

We asked some of our trustees and JET ambassadors about their first jobs.

JET ambassador Sasha Russell

My first job was stewarding at the Battle of Flow-ers. At the time, I had been applying for Saturday jobs for months and was getting nowhere. The financial crash had recently happened, and finding any kind of work felt incredibly difficult. When-ever a vacancy came up there were hundreds of applicants, and employers always wanted candidates with previous experience. It was frustrating because you couldn't gain experience unless someone was willing to give you a chance in the first place.

When I got the stewarding role, I was delighted. It was only for a few days, but it was my first opportunity to earn my own money, and I remember feeling so happy when I received my £40.

As quite a shy person, it wasn't the type of role I had imagined myself doing. Managing crowds and interacting with large numbers of people wasn't at all within my comfort zone. However, it turned



■ JET ambassador Sasha Russell

out to be quite fun. I was outdoors in the sunshine, by the sea, surrounded by music, dancing and the beautiful floats.

Although the job was temporary, it gave me something to put on my CV. It was enough to get my foot in the door and helped me take the first step towards other opportunities.

● Sasha is now an organisation development consultant for the Government of Jersey and co-chair of the Neurodiversity Network.

Everyone really enjoyed the One TMF Challenge



■ Back row: Louise Hotton with Sheila and Charlotte. Front row: Jane and her sister Sue

ACORN clients took part in the TMF One Walk last month. The section of the walk, from Bel Royal to the finish line at the Waterfront, enables all Islanders to be a part of this much-loved community event.

Acorn training and development assistant team leader Louise Hotton said:

“Everyone really enjoyed the One TMF Challenge. It enticed them to get outdoors and get active rather than sitting at home.”

“In fact, three clients had lunch together afterwards, which was brilliant in terms of building new friendships and being part of the community.”

“It was a very sociable group who talked with each other the whole way. We would definitely do it again.”

This year was extra special for Acorn, as we were one of the chosen charities. We had volunteers at the finish line helping hot and exhausted walkers at the end and giving them their medals.

And JET fundraising manager Caroline Spencer, who has finished the full round-the-island walk twice before, completed her first Governor's Walk, covering 29,325 steps (13 miles) in 4.5 hours.

We would like to thank all the organisers, walkers, volunteers and sponsors for making the event so special.

Praise for Acorn's plastic repurposing workshop



■ Martin Jeanne, Christian Basilio and Fiona Scott at the Intact Insurance Conservation Awards

ACORN'S plastic repurposing workshop has been highly commended by the judges in the Intact Insurance Conservation Awards.

The award ceremony at the Pomme d'Or Hotel was attended by Acorn training and development client services manager Fiona Scott and project leader, Martin Jeanne. And for Christian Basilio, who works within the project, it was his first awards ceremony.

“In plastics I have enjoyed learning new skills,” he said. “I like how you can change something into something else.”

Acorn's plastics workshop takes chocolate tubs and DVD cases and transforms them into pots, pens and dishes. There are also plans to make 3D filament out of plastic bottles.

Mrs Scott added: “It was great to hear about all the conservation projects, big and small, around our island. We were very proud that Acorn's plastics workshop was short-listed as a finalist.”

“Our new venture is benefiting the environment, while providing work and training opportunities for Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition.”