

## News from Jersey Employment Trust

# From Trinity to Chelsea Flower Show

The latest news and events from JET by the charity's fundraising manager **Caroline Spencer**

### Acorn Woodshack goes to Chelsea!

WASTE timber from Jersey, processed by social enterprise Acorn Woodshack, will feature at this year's prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show, which runs from 20-24 May, where start-up wildlife habitat brand BrdBx will be launched.

Featuring a range of eco-friendly, architect-designed and hand-crafted bird, bat, bug and hedgehog boxes, the BrdBx stand itself was crafted at the Woodshack and will showcase BrdBx's striking collection of sustainable wildlife boxes.

Each product combines thoughtful design with environmental and social purpose, as they are made from FSC-certified plywood and produced in partnership with the Oxford-based RAW Workshop, a UK social enterprise that provides training and meaningful employment for individuals overcoming significant life challenges.

The idea for BrdBx was born when Jersey resident William Davies visited London's King's Cross, which has undergone a multi-million-pound regeneration programme.

"To me, it looked so sterile," William said. "I wanted to create something that added not just habitat, but beauty, purpose and social value."

"Our boxes are hand-crafted and hand-painted in the UK, made from sustainable materials and provide meaningful work and training opportunities along the way."

Last year, Acorn Woodshack prototyped the BrdBx range, including bird boxes and feeders, bat boxes, bug hotels, a hedgehog house and an owl box. They are now manufactured to scale by RAW Workshop.

"Someone recommended Chelsea Flower Show to me, and I felt it was the perfect place to establish the credibility of BrdBx," said William. "As a start-up, it is an honour to have been given a stand at such a prestigious event that aligns so well with BrdBx's values. When planning for the show, I knew it was only fitting to return to the Woodshack for the stand."

Respected ornithologist Peter Clarke has reviewed the BrdBx range for its suitability, ensuring that each product supports the wellbeing of urban species, many of which are in decline due to habitat loss and lack of food sources.

The stand pieces have been created to order by David Senior at Acorn Woodshack and will be installed on site by carpenter Oli Newman.

Acorn Woodshack's technical lead Ian Florence said: "Chelsea Flower Show is a very prestigious event, and we are excited to contribute even a small part. It offers a great showcase for the Woodshack, which provides work and training for Islanders who have a disability or long-term health condition."

"We look forward to working further with Mr Davies and the BrdBx team in the



■ William Davies (left) and Oli Newman (second from right) with the Woodshack's David Senior and Ian Florence



■ Just a couple of examples of the BrdBx boxes which were prototyped by Acorn Woodshack

future."

On the day that King Charles will visit, BrdBx will unveil a unique creation, Buckingham Palace, a playful and eye-catching bug hotel created especially for the occasion.

### 'Ignorance is costing us time and money'

A recent incident of fly tipping has prompted Acorn Reuse to remind Islanders what they do – and what they don't do.

A fridge was dumped in the collections area while it was unattended.

Deputy operations and commercial manager Darren Arnold said: "This kind of thoughtless action costs the charity."

"We don't want to waste our time and

money on throwing away items that really should never have reached us in the first place. And this is the same for many items we have donated in boxes and bags every day."

"Admittedly it can feel like a never-ending list of what we can't take, but most of our staff and volunteers have a disability or health condition and it is imperative that they are kept safe."

"People might not realise that we must pay for the safe disposal of knives and dangerous items. We ask customers to please not bury dangerous items amongst other things. The other day we came across a large carving knife wrapped in clothing. That really does pose a danger to us."

"And people do know if something is wrong. The person who donated a bin bag with soiled tampons at the top, or a soiled nappy, or a poo-stained towel, they know it

is wrong. The whole bag is then considered contaminated and we have to dispose of it."

He continued: "People think we can recycle or repair everything but we can't. We also appeal to people not to use our skips. We carefully sort what we must throw away and it costs us to have the skips taken away, so we cannot have people adding to them. Islanders should be using the Household Recycling Centre at La Collette."

Darren added that Acorn were always very grateful for public support, on which the charity relies. "Our message is, please don't forget what we are about and trying to achieve at Acorn."

"We don't like to turn people away but we need to remind people to sift first. Understand who we are and what we are doing, because at the moment ignorance is costing us time and money."

See list of "no thank you" items opposite.

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We're keen to collect as many roll-up banners as possible and contribute to four great local charitable causes at the same time. We're aiming to reuse as much as possible, even the vinyl, with support from some of the charities

Tim de Gruchy, Signtech managing director



### Roll up the banners

Signtech are inviting businesses and charities to hand in their old roll-up banners.

Signtech will then reuse or recycle the component parts, and they can also replace the existing vinyl with new artwork for a reduced fee, saving money and materials.

Managing director Tim de Gruchy said:

"Many businesses and charities have banners made up for single events, which have old logos or dates that have passed, but what to do with them afterwards? Banners tend to be put under desks or in a store cupboard, as people don't really like throwing



■ Acorn technical team leader Ian Florence: "Please don't use our skips"

### Find out more about JET

■ Jersey Employment Trust (JET) was formed in 2002, and was set up with the aim of making employment and vocational training more accessible to people with disabilities.

■ If you would like to learn more about the charity, how to support their work or how to donate to them you can get in touch:

■ Jersey Employment Trust Employment Service, Oakfield Building, Highlands Campus

■ Email: [admin@jet.co.je](mailto:admin@jet.co.je)

■ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jerseyemploymenttrust>

■ Website: [jet.co.je](http://jet.co.je)

them away.

"We're keen to collect as many roll-up banners as possible and contribute to four great local charitable causes at the same time. We're aiming to reuse as much as possible, even the vinyl, with support from some of the charities."

Roll-up banners can be delivered to Signtech in Lewis Lane, St Helier, or to Acorn in Trinity. Signtech are also happy to collect, for £5 per banner, all of which will be donated to charity.

Signtech have chosen four charities to benefit from the banner amnesty: the Jersey Employment Trust, Headway Jersey, Beresford Street Kitchen, and St Mary's Youth and Community Centre.

### On the list of 'no, thank you' are:

■ Knives, weapons, including antique ones, scythes, skewers, cigarette lighters, vapes.

■ Life jackets, helmets (including horse, cycling, motorcycling).

■ Electric blankets, gas bottles, hot water bottles.

■ Butane gas, CS spray.

■ Alcohol and food, in-date or not. (For food, please consider donating to food banks.)

■ Fridges, microwaves, larger appliances.

■ Children's prams, buggies, baby walkers, stairgates. (Please consider donating to Pram Parlour Jersey.)

■ Underwear, unless it is brand new with labels on. We do accept bras and vests in good condition.

■ Walkers, walking sticks, bath lifts. Medical equipment can now go to Enable at La Collette, where people should donate directly.

■ Duvets, pillows (unless brand new and sealed).

■ Scooters. They are classified as motor vehicles, which need insurance.

■ Obsolete books eg history books, out-of-date travel books.

■ Old T-shirts "for rags" or "old sheets for painting". Please take directly to garages and places where you think they can be used.

■ Email [donate@jet.co.je](mailto:donate@jet.co.je) with a photo.

### Save yourself a journey

● Is it clean?

● Is it safe?

● Would someone buy it in its current condition?

● Do sofas and soft furnishings have fire labels on?

● Do children's items have the CE mark?

### Get in touch

■ If you have a story that you would like to see on our community or feature pages, please email [features@jerseyeveningpost.com](mailto:features@jerseyeveningpost.com) with a few details and preferably a contact number so we can give you a ring