

# Forum Connection

Issue 9



Welcome to the latest Forum Connection from the Employee Development Forum

## DAN EVANS – CONGRATULATIONS!

Dan Evans, who is a welder at Johnston Sweepers in Dorking, was entered for a national welding competition by Central Sussex College. He won the first round (£75) and came third in the English regional final (£50). He also took part in the national finals, where he finished in the top 10 out of 200 people.

Our picture features Dan Evans, an apprentice welder at Johnston Sweepers in Dorking. Dan was entered for a national welding competition by his college. The competition was sponsored by BOC and held at the Alstom engineering company's state-of-the-art welding facility in Stafford.

"This is a real achievement" says Jim Lane, apprenticeship manager at Johnston Sweepers. "To rate so highly against so many skilled people from all over the country is something that Dan, ourselves and his training providers can be proud of".



## WELL DONE! ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT FOR HAYLEY

Hayley Boakes has featured previously in Forum Connection – Issue 7, to be precise. Apprenticed at Johnston Sweepers in Sittingbourne, she is an achiever par excellence – ONC student, expert welder, trampoline coach, ballroom and Latin dancer, just for starters!

Last year Hayley spent some time in Uganda teaching children. She said "I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and it feels good to know that I helped with the wellbeing and teaching of children (both living at the Kampala Children's Centre and those in the community)"

Hayley is an inspirational example of the ways in which many young people are involved in contributing to the wider world: as well as teaching, she took with her educational materials for the school, clothing and a donation to the Kampala Children's centre. The EDF was proud to help sponsor her for her trip to Africa.



## News

- Dan Evans
- Hayley Boakes
- Sally McClarnon
- Employer Peer Group
- Camelia Botnar

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our customers and suppliers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.





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## EMPLOYEE PROFILE SALLY McCLARNON



Sally has been with The EDF since March 2010, ably assisting Tara in the general day to day running of the office. Coming from previously working in a busy pub restaurant where she was always busy on her feet running around, this must have been a bit of a culture shock but she has fitted in perfectly.

At home Sally is married with two teenagers, Greg and Lara, who keep her on her toes. Her interests include spending time with her two young nieces, watching movies, cooking for her family (and sometimes for the EDF team – she brings great homemade cakes in to our meetings) and reading a good book.

## EMPLOYER PEER GROUP


We're always looking for more effective ways of engaging with employer clients, with a view to maintaining our good relationships, keeping our customers satisfied (see the article on our customer survey elsewhere in this issue) and constantly seeking to improve our standards of service.

An example of the ways in which we demonstrate this commitment is our having set up an Employer Peer Mentoring Group. Companies currently in the group are Johnston Sweepers based in Dorking; HMD SealLess Pumps at Eastbourne; Carville Switchgear at Burgess Hill; Sussex Community NHS Trust (Brighton General Hospital); and Muffett Gears at Tunbridge Wells. This carefully selected group of employers - all of whom engage the services of The EDF in training and developing their staff - meets regularly to share best practice and discuss various issues, particularly relating to apprenticeships. It's intended to remain selective, with any future expansion of the group to be by invitation only dependent on the wishes of the members themselves.

Thus far, everyone who has participated in the meetings has agreed that it is a very useful exercise. At the end of the first meeting we asked for suggestions as to the frequency of future meetings, everyone agreed that the group should meet at least bi-monthly, and that it would be a good thing if group members could host the meetings at their own companies whenever possible.

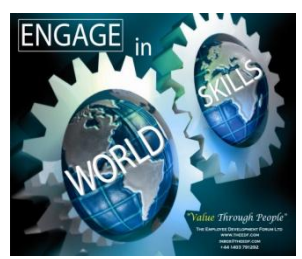
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## THE CAMELIA BOTNAR FOUNDATION

The South of England Show at Ardingly June 2011 was, yet again, another astounding success for the Camelia Botnar Foundation. Awards were obtained in the metalwork, pottery, woodwork and horticulture departments and we are delighted for our young apprentices, as they have worked extremely hard.



As well as the above, Manager, Adam Baillie, who in fact used to be one of our trainees in 2002 won the coveted prize of Overall Champion Blacksmith as well as winning 1st Prize in Contemporary Wrought Iron Design.

Emma Mitchell, Chief Executive said "We are over the moon with our achievements this year and our trainees have once again made us very proud. Adam's awards are well deserved, he is a very talented and creative Blacksmith and his work is to an exceptionally high standard".

Oliver Dann, 20 - 2nd Prize Young Craftsman of the Year Award, Metal Section, for his Contemporary Gate.

Liam O'Connor, 20 - 3rd Prize Young Craftsmen of the Year Award (Woodwork Section) for his 10 Drawer Chest unit.

Luke Jibb, 20 - awarded the Camelia Botnar Cup by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

Adam Baillie - Overall Champion Blacksmith, awarded by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Adam Baillie - 1st Prize Contemporary Wrought Iron Design awarded by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.



The EDF is proud of our long association with the Foundation as its training provider.

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