

LINKAGE NEWS



The Newsletter of Linkage Community Trust • Issue 41 • 2011



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Registered Charity No. 504913

Company Limited by Guarantee No. 01240377

You must all be proud says Peter Duxbury

Peter Duxbury, Lincolnshire County Council's Director of Children's Services, is pictured below with one of the 68 school children attending Linkage's Work Skills Week held at Toynnton Campus.

The young man is proudly displaying his certificate, which Mr Duxbury presented to all the learners at the end of the five-day event.



Pupils from Eresby School in Spilsby and St Bernard's School in Louth took part in the programme during the day, with the youngsters from Sandon School in Grantham, Queens Park School in Lincoln, John Fielding School in Boston, Willoughby School in Bourne and Garth School in Spalding having their first taste of living away from home in Linkage's residential care accommodation.

During the week the 13-16 year olds took part in a selection of workshops, including horticulture, health and beauty, painting and decorating, catering, office, woodcraft, media, drama, building and cottage crafts.

Mr Duxbury congratulated them all individually and said that their parents, schools and teachers must feel very proud of their achievements.

Staff Awards

Linkage members of staff took a clean sweep of all the special awards presented to people studying for the Institute of Leadership and Management certificate and diploma through CERT Ltd.

The Immingham-based training organisation held its annual awards ceremony at the Grimsby town hall, where the Mayor of Grimsby, Norma Lincoln, made the presentations.



The Mayor of Grimsby, Norma Lincoln, is pictured with all the recipients at the 2010 ceremony

Lesley Rimmer was announced 'outstanding learner of the year' because of her amazing dedication to achievement. She didn't always find it easy, but her hard work paid off.

Sandra Spence received 'most committed learner' award. Assignment after assignment Sandra's work got better and better, and she showed a clear determination to learn and apply the learning.

Suzi Siers was also 'outstanding learner of the year'. She provided exceptional assignments, which were always on time.

The 2011 awards ceremony will also be held at the Grimsby town hall on 30 March. We will be cheering on the 30-plus Linkage members of staff who will be receiving certificates and diplomas. Look out for photos in the next *Linkage News*.



Linkage News is available in large print or in an electronic format (text only). Please call Jennifer Brown on 01472 372359 to obtain an alternative format.

Boultham Park Project

Linkage is looking to raise £1.5m towards a partnership development that will bring together residential, educational and employment opportunities for our service users at a site in Boultham Park, Lincoln.

The Trust has already acquired land for the project close to Boultham Park's main gates, adjacent to the library and health centre at the bowling green side of the park.

Plans for the partnership development include building 16 new residential units, creating an educational block within the restored stable and coach house area, plus developing a commercial greenhouse, shop and café - all providing training and employment opportunities for Linkage residents and service users.

Boultham Park is a historic site in Lincoln and was part of the much larger Boultham estate owned by the Ellison family until the beginning of the twentieth century. Boultham Hall was their family home and this survived the family connection by another fifty years or so until it was finally demolished in 1959.

Boultham Park is central to local community life and its restoration is a partnership between Linkage and Lincoln City Council.

It is anticipated that work in the park should be completed by the end of 2012.

Pedal Power

Cyclist Richard Hutt and his brother David, who is a service user at Scremby, are pictured with their mother presenting a cheque for £1,200 to Christine Saxon, Linkage Development and Fundraising Manager.

Richard comes from Kings Langley in Hertfordshire, and belongs to the Harp Road Club. Every year the club members undertake a gruelling 100k trial run through the Chiltern Hills raising money for a nominated charity along the way.

Funds from this year's Harp Hill 100 Reliability Trial have been donated to Linkage, in honour, the brothers said, of their father **Bryan**, who was a past active member of the club.



T for Tremendous

If you are going on a fundraising mission for Linkage this year, why not do it in style wearing one of Linkage's T-shirts. They look good on our 'models' - **David Blake, Jennifer Brown, Christine Saxon** and **Bob Suich** - and they will look even better on our fundraisers.

For further information contact **Christine Saxon 01472 372359**

LINKAGE FUNDRAISING NEWS



Vintage images of Boultham Park
courtesy of Eileen Sherriff

Thanks Mrs Read

We would like to say a big thank you to the mother of one of Livingstone Court service users, **Linda Read**, for raising £130 for Linkage from cashback donations received from on-line retailers linked to the easyfundraising website. Linda raised the money from purchases she made throughout last year through the fundraising service.

So if you would like to follow Linda's example and raise money for Linkage in this simple way, check out www.easyfundraising.org.uk today.

10K for Linkage

Linkage fundraiser **Andrew Douglas** is to run the Bupa 10K race in May - his first ever, competitive race.

Andrew's sister **Jennifer** is a resident at Scremby and Andrew wants to raise money for the care sector at Linkage.

The 31 year-old transport executive works at the Trafford Centre and will be running the 10K around Manchester's city centre on May 15.

If you would like to 'beef' up funds and give Andrew your support, go to www.justgiving.com/Andrew-Douglas1 to make a donation on his page.

One local Louth business is happily reaping the benefits of employing the services of a young man with learning disabilities who is supported by Linkage.

The Priory Hotel on Eastgate Louth is a Grade II listed building, built in 1818. It has a mix of nine, double and triple en-suite bedrooms and is owned and run by **Paul and Shelley Hugill**.

The couple teamed up with Linkage four years ago to employ 34 year-old **Daniel Soloman**. Said Paul: "We don't look at specific skills, or at a job and then look for a person, we look at individuals and their personalities to see how they would fit into the role and to a team."

And Daniel has fitted perfectly into his part-time role at the hotel where his capabilities have grown above and beyond expectations. He has progressed steadily until his tasks now include general garden and car park maintenance, cleaning tables and washing up, clearing glasses, vacuuming throughout the hotel, and helping out at weddings and special functions. He also waits on tables occasionally.

"I love my job because it makes me feel important," said Daniel. Both Daniel and his parents are extremely happy with the support he receives from Linkage and the Priory Hotel.

He has become a key member of the hotel's team. "Whenever past guests call, or come back to stay, they always ask after Daniel. That's what Daniel is about, and why he works for our



Daniel Solomon and Priory Hotel owner Paul Hugill

business, because he has a great personality and people remember him," said Paul.

People with learning disabilities are one of the groups least likely to find employment, but, with a little support from the Linkage's employment division, tasks can often be customised to suit the talents of people with a disability.

Linkage Work Skills Instructor, **David Larder**, said that each individual coming from Linkage has gone through a journey and has been trained with the appropriate skills to be placed in jobs that are both suitable for our service user and for the employer.



Weelsby learner, David Barraclough, has received an award for the work placement he has been undertaking at the Oakland's Garden Centre at Laceby.

The 20 year-old has been working as a general assistant, tidying up the garden centre, weeding, moving plants around, and helping with a variety of other things since his placement started in April, last year.

Weelsby Work Experience Co-ordinator, **Barbara Lawrence**, said that the work experience team liked to recognise a learner who they felt had progressed extremely well and had shown enthusiasm, and developed work and personal skills whilst at their work placement.

David is pictured receiving his award certificate from **Lorraine Clark**, one of the garden centre owners.

Nice one Eddie

Former Weelsby learner, **Edward Readman**, has joined the **Linkage Ground Care team**, working as a grounds maintenance operative in the **Estates Department**.

The position gives Edward two days-a-week paid employment and the opportunity to benefit from the combined knowledge and experience of Linkage's experts in horticulture and ground maintenance, Neil Allen and Allan Michael.

As a learner at Linkage College, Edward had previously held a work experience placement in the Estates Department helping to maintain the grounds and gardens of all Linkage properties in the Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Louth and Lincoln areas.

This experience held him in good stead when he went to work with L & D Mowers after leaving college, but this sadly came to an end.

So **Neil Allen** and **Barbara Lawrence** of Linkage Work Experience asked Edward if he would like to join the Estates team on a voluntary basis for a couple of days a week to rebuild his confidence and self-esteem.



Edward has now gained paid employment with the team.

Every little counts for Ben

Linkage service user, **Ben Bannister**, is taking home a regular pay packet from several part-time jobs he has managed to win since Spring last year - and it is all adding up to a 'nice little earner' for the 36 year-old.

Ben initially gained a work experience placement at Stickney Farm Park near Boston, where he was responsible for cutting the grass in the children's play area as well as in the orchard and on the pathways.

He quickly went on to gain paid work there for three hours a week, extending his tasks to include cleaning the animal pens.

A further opportunity arose for Ben when a local businessman asked if he could help out in the garden at his home. He started off by cutting the massive lawn and then quickly developed this role to include other gardening duties such as weeding, digging and clearing undergrowth. This job was for another three hours a week, which, with the job at Stickney Farm Park, added up to six hours of paid work a week for Ben.

Then in July last year, Ben was offered a further ten hours a week as a gardener at Manor Care Home in East Kirkby, near Spilsby. This time though, there was a hitch - Ben had to provide his own mower! Help came from an unexpected source when Linkage Work Skills Instructor, **David Larder**, had a chance conversation with **Richard Beckett**, Assistant Manager at Focus DIY in Louth.



Keeping the grass in shape around the children's play area



Ben receiving his first pay cheque from farmer, Harry Dodd

Richard told his Store Manager, **Bob Stouers**, about Ben who, in turn, asked Focus head office for assistance. The result was a brand new mower for Ben.

He loves his new machine and always refers to it as 'my mower'. He uses it to cut the grass of the large lawn at the front of the care home - a task that needs to be done on a regular basis.

As gardener he has also undertaken a variety of other work including cutting back large trees that had encroached across a pavement and into the driveway, dealing with a mass of undergrowth and clearing a large, brick garden wall that had become covered in ivy.

Said Kay Harrison, Manager of Manor Care Home, "When Ben first came to us he used to look at the floor. Now he looks me in the eye and smiles and I can tell he loves being here."

- Ben is now taking part in a research study being carried out by the University of Kent.

The title of the study is *Sustainable Hub of Innovative Employment for People with Complex Needs (SHIEC)* and the vision behind this is to ensure that people of all ages with complex needs are properly supported to have the same life opportunities as everyone else, including employment, home life, education and leisure.

The project is for adults with learning disabilities and additional complex needs.

Welcome to Christine

Christine Saxon has joined Linkage as Development and Fundraising Manager based at Weelsby Campus.



Her work career includes 17 years in the charity sector and a further 14 years working as Manager of the Job Centre at Immingham.

Her job role at Linkage has a mix of elements from fundraising to looking at ways Linkage can develop in the community.

"I am really encouraged by the enthusiasm and interaction within Linkage and hope to convey this to the community outside, raising lots of money and making new friends for Linkage," said Christine.

christine.saxon@linkage.org.uk

The value of the volunteer

Last year Linkage was an award winner at the first ever East Lindsey Community Awards presentation evening, for giving that little bit extra when helping members of the public and making their lives a little bit easier. This year Linkage sponsored one of the ten awards presented during evening, which was held at the Embassy Theatre in March.



The Linkage-sponsored award was for volunteering which is at the heart of the local community and something the District Council is keen to develop, particularly with the Olympics on the horizon.

The winner was **Darren Hobson** who was chosen because he gives up a huge amount of his time developing the *Flood Plan* and acting as Warden in Louth.

Jane Howson, Linkage's Director of Business Development and compere **James Gilbert**, are pictured above announcing Darren as the winner.

The Awards evening began last year as a partnership between East Lindsey District Council and the Target Newspaper Group to celebrate those people in the community who are doing outstanding things and are our unsung heroes.

ECO AWARDS

Toynton and Weelsby campuses have both been awarded the Eco-Schools bronze certificate, which is the first rung on the ladder of an environmental education programme run internationally by the Foundation for Environmental Education.

The work that led to the bronze award was co-ordinated by Linkage's AP for Sustainability, **Judith Simons**, and began with a formal environmental review of each site and a subsequent action plan.

The plan focused on sustainability and an action team was rallied at each site consisting of teaching and non-teaching members of staff, learners, assistant business managers and a parent representative.

The teams went on to establish energy champions for the learner houses and also for some of the lessons where the lecturer had taken on board the challenges of the Eco-Schools project, carrying through to a 'goodbye standby' campaign which encouraged everyone to turn off appliances rather than leave them on standby.

The Eco-Schools programme is on-going and Judith is now committed to working towards achieving a silver award for both campuses.



Fran Calvert
Sustainability Champion

:: THE ACTION TEAM AT WEELSBY IS SHORT OF A PARENT REPRESENTATIVE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART, CONTACT **JUDITH SIMONS** AT TOYNTON CAMPUS ON **01790 752499** FOR FURTHER DETAILS ::



Tadgh Marsden
Equality Champion



David Small
Sustainability Champion



'GREEN GUY'

INTRODUCING 'GREEN GUY', THE NEW SUSTAINABILITY MASCOT FOR LINKAGE COLLEGE DESIGNED BY WEELSBY LEARNER, MARK ROBERTSHAW.

MARK'S ENTRY WON THE RECENTLY HELD COMPETITION TO DESIGN A MEMORABLE SUSTAINABILITY MASCOT WHICH WILL NOW BE USED COLLEGE-WIDE ON NEWSLETTERS AND EMAILS.

Toynton learners are off to see the wizard

Following the success of Toynton's Magical Musical Show held at the Embassy Theatre, Skegness, in April last year, the performing arts learners have been researching three possible musicals for this year's summer production.

'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Sound of Music' and 'The Wizard of Oz' were chosen as the favourites, and the learners made presentations on all three shows before being asked to vote for the one they would like to perform. The clear winner, with over 90% of the votes, meant that they would all be off to see *the wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

The Wizard of Oz story is of a young girl called Dorothy, and her dog Toto, who get caught up in a tornado and somehow end up in the land of Oz.

The story tells how she meets some memorable friends - the tin man, the scarecrow and the scardy lion - plus a very wicked witch on her journey to meet the wizard who everyone says will be able to send her home and possibly grant her new friends a heart, a brain and some courage.

The show will be held on Friday June 17 at the Embassy Theatre, Skegness, with doors opening at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £8, with concessions and learners at £7. Tickets for the under 16's are £4 and will be available from early April.

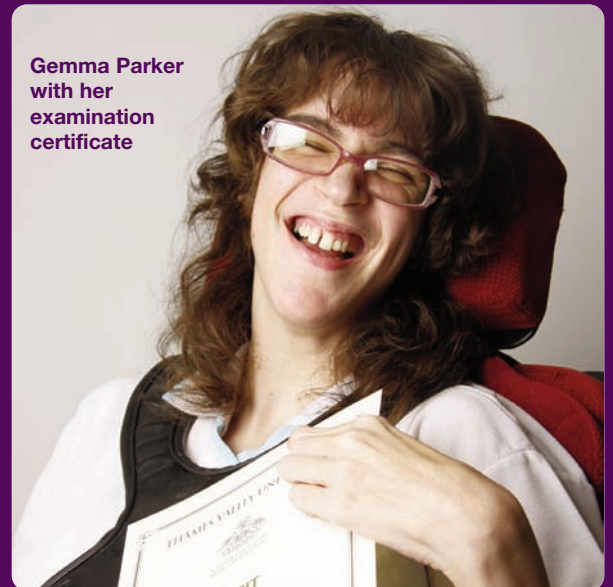
Music to our ears

A group of 18, 16-24 year-old learners from Toynton have passed their London College of Music (LCM) examinations, giving their year a 100 percent pass rate.

The externally adjudicated course was taught over 6-12 weeks, with the learners performing three songs from memory complete with characterisation, on their own in front of the examiner.

Three of the learners passed against the Special Educational Needs curriculum and the other 15 passed against the mainstream curriculum.

Well done everyone!



Gemma Parker with her examination certificate

Their grades are:

Andrew Stevens.....	Step 2 Musical Theatre	Pass	SEN
Aidan Usuf.....	Step 2 Musical Theatre	Pass	SEN
Robert Lipscombe Ridley	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Pass	SEN
Alastair Leisuk	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Pass	
Toby Moyo	Grade 2 Musical Theatre	Distinction	
Adam Wilson	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Gemma Parker	Step 2 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Luke Murphy	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Nathan Ennifer.....	Step 2 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Jessica Harvey.....	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Mary McDevitt.....	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Merit	
Katie Parsons.....	Grade 1 Musical Theatre.....	Merit	
Daniel Skipper.....	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Pass	
Toby Moyo	Grade 1 Acting	Pass	
Shannon Hartley	Grade 1 Acting	Pass	
Rosemary Underwood	Grade 1 Musical Theatre	Distinction	
Kayleigh Smith	Grade 1 Musical Theatre	Distinction	
Heather Daubney.....	Step 1 Musical Theatre	Distinction	

It's all happening at Linkage Green...

...in the conservatory

From green to purple and white - that's the new, eye-catching colour scheme for diners inside the conservatory at Linkage Green.

The uniforms of front of house staff have also been given a transformation with everyone kitted out with new, purple corporate polo shirts - and they love them.

With the new colour scheme comes a new menu of snacks, main meals and beverages including some old favourites and some new delights. This includes giant Yorkshire puddings filled with home made beef stew, Lincolnshire sausage or vegetarian sausage, salmon in lemon and parsley sauce, cottage pie, fish pie or vegetable bake.

There is also a specials menu with a two meals for £8 offer and, for Sunday lunch, there are one, two or three course meals from £6.50.

"If it is a snack or light bite you want, or a takeaway lunch to eat on the run, give us a try," says Linkage Green general manager, **Sharon Johnston**. "You will be made more than welcome by our front of house team."



...in the kitchens

Food hygiene has always been top of the agenda in the kitchens at Linkage Green and the staff's vigilance was recently highlighted when the 'Green' received an 'Excellent 3 stars' food hygiene award, following a spot inspection carried out by an enforcement officer from East Lindsey District Council. Three stars is the top rating awarded by the council to food preparation businesses.



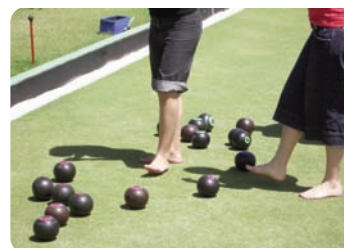
Love was in the air

For **Valentine's** weekend Linkage Green offered a very special three-course menu with a beautiful gift for everyone. The offer proved so popular it had to be extended and special lunches were served on the Saturday too - so no one was disappointed.

...and on the grass!

It may make some of the stalwart bowlers shout "you what?", but it has taken off in Australia where this relaxed way of playing bowls is even attracting the younger Sheilas.

And it will be on our shores soon - well actually the green - giving you the opportunity to get your feet on the grass and have some fun with this new bowling concept.



Barefoot bowls is coming to Mablethorpe

Think of it as lawn bowls gone casual and just the thing to do on a Sunday afternoon, or any time you have got a couple of friends together. It is also perfect for corporate groups, birthdays, fancy dress occasions, social events or for creating your own theme party.

The dress code is as relaxed as the atmosphere and you do not need a lot of experience to have fun with the game. Contact **Sharon Johnston** on **01507 479305** for further information and a copy of the barefoot rules.