

Newsletter No 1 – July 2017

It is with great delight that we are pleased to announce the continuation of this wonderful rural project. The future was in question when one of our founding partners ceased to gain further funding from March 2017.

It was clear from the community support that this project had proved invaluable within the rural town and surrounds of Heathfield over the last six years. With this in mind, every effort was made to continue this project, which helps so many young people on their journey from school to employment or further education.

After many discussions with The Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd, the remaining founding partner, it was agreed that we would endeavour to take the project forward under a new umbrella and so Wealden Works was initiated and the fund raising began.

So here we are now three months since Wealden Works started its journey. We have a great, enthusiastic and diverse team within The Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd. The positivity and belief from this organisation has helped bring us to where we are today.

We are at the end of our first group and we have seen, yet again, the successes of the young participants who have voluntarily enrolled to progress to the next step of their lives.

All participants from the first group have achieved their action plan targets which are testament to their determination. They have also gained the following:

- Full and current CVs
- Work trials and college tours
- Contacts with business and support networks
- Tailored personal and employability skills training
- Up to 3 additional accredited qualifications
- Securing employment
- College Interviews and accepted placements
- Gaining confidence through practical activities
- Work experience and volunteering
- 1-1 professional counselling



We look forward to formally celebrating their achievements at the annual graduation event, to take place at the end of the year.

Wealden Works has been actively promoting its mission statement of '*Bridging the gap between education and work*', at the following events:

- Heathfield Agricultural Show
- Heathfield Farmers Market
- Uckfield Business Exhibition
- Uckfield Full Council Presentation
- Uckfield Rotary Dinner Presentation
- The Wives of the Uckfield Rotary Presentation
- Heathfield Rotary Dinner Presentation
- Heathfield Chamber of Commerce Presentation

Other events planned include:

- Heathfield College Partnership Days
- Uckfield College Partnership Days
- Le Marche
- Uckfield Chamber of Commerce Presentation
- Uckfield FM Live Phone in
- Launch of the Wealden Works website



Without the support of local organisations and individuals Wealden Works would not have been possible, **THANK YOU.**

Support has been shown through many 'gifts in kind' including 1-1 mentoring, work trials, job opportunities, business talks, workshops volunteering and sharing expertise and advise.

We would like to personally thank **Brighter Heathfield** for working in partnership with our young people on their environmental projects, showing them the importance of respect for the local community.

A special thank you to the following for their belief, support and generous donations:

Heathfield Rotary Club, Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council, The Gatwick Foundation, Heathfield Churches Together, Uckfield Town Council, Tunstall Jubilee, Heathfield Waitrose, Heathfield Co-op, Wealden District Council, Burwash Masonic Lodge, Horam Parish Council and various donations from individuals.

And not to forget the donation we had from Robbie Watkinson, one of our past participants who is now working at Frogheath; we were all very touched by his kind donation.



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