

Newsletter No 3

Over a hundred people showed their support by attending our first Achievement Awards event in December. A short film produced by two ex-Heathfield Community College students, who recently started their own production company in Uckfield; gave a real insight into the Wealden Works delivery model and how our young people from Uckfield, Hailsham Heathfield and surrounding villages have overcome personal challenges to move into employment and further education.



Our local Ambassadors presented certificates and praised both the event and achievers saying:

'I was really impressed with the young people's confidence and camaraderie. Well done to everyone involved, Wealden needs you' Roger Daltry

'What an inspiration these young adults are by working hard to achieve their personal goals'. Jayne Torville

The latest issue of Sussex Life includes an article on the event and the Wealden Works project.



One of our young participants bravely spoke publicly and passionately, about how our volunteer professional counselling service had helped him overcome personal issues and family bereavement urging others to speak out and seek help. The event was made even more special with a cheque presentation and two further donations totalling nearly £10,000

In the first week of January 2018, eight new recruits enrolled on the course from Five Ashes, Herstmonceaux, Hailsham, Wadhurst and Heathfield, with further enquiries being followed up from Uckfield.

The new group have already begun their personal action plans and attended confidence and team building events, workshops and training courses including.

- Rock Climbing, Bowling, and Pottery
- Fire-Fighting skills and 1-1 mentoring from ESFRS
- Drug awareness workshop
- Ashdown Park Hotel tour and introduction to hospitality roles; this was a return visit at their invitation
- Participants assisted in the clearing of 'Black Path' in Hailsham, as part of our environmental community involvement and we are currently liaising with Hailsham Town Councillors and volunteer groups to make this an ongoing partnership.
- Barclays Skills for Life Workshop

Accredited qualifications achieved so far include Emergency First Aid in the Workplace and Equality and Diversity, also CSCS training has commenced for two participants and a recruit is attending interview for a local Electrical Installation Apprenticeship.

As guest speakers at Eastbourne Rotary dinner, our presentation included our Wealden Works film and raised some very positive and complimentary comments.

At a recent Award Ceremony our nominated participant won the Skills UK South East 'Overall Winner of the Year' for best learner, a real achievement for someone that has overcome several challenges.

Thank you to Alex from Newton Frost for all her hard work in producing our newly launched website which you can visit at www.wealdenworks.co.uk

'El Bando Burros' have very kindly nominated Wealden Works as their fundraising charity for 2018 and already have several gigs arranged for 2018 www.elbandoburros.co.uk please check out the venues and dates.

Finally, we would once again like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a

VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR