

From SHAW to Azure

This Spring, SHAW Garden Centre has been revamped and relaunched as Azure Garden Centre. The business was the last section of the Charity to be changed from SHAW to Azure. Everyone at the Garden Centre has been working very hard during the winter months to ensure that everything is ready for the summer season.



Recruitment Adviser

Workstep Adviser, Tony Kelly is set to take over the role of Recruitment Adviser from Ann Dobson later this month.



Safe Journey and Best Wishes

Azure Employment Services would like to wish Laura, Sales Assistant within Azure Garden Centre, a safe journey. Laura is taking a 6 month break to travel around Europe. Best wishes also go to Chris Baker, former Workstep Adviser with Azure Employment Services as she and her family begin their new life in Cyprus this month.



Laura and Chris Baker

Contact us

Written By Denise



Azure Employment Services
Kielder Avenue, Beacon Lane, Cramlington,
Northumberland
NE23 8JT

Telephone: 01670 717106

Fax: 01670 590115

Email: es@azure-charitable.co.uk

www.azure-charitable.co.uk



Newsletter



Food for Thought

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Azure has been running the 'Food for Thought' horticultural training programme in partnership with Blyth Valley Food Co-operative since September 2004. 17 trainees have accessed the course so far which is due to finish this August.

Food for Thought Trainees Anne, Eunice, Elizabeth, Chris, Marion (Adviser) and Stephen



The scheme has been very successful, with all the trainees gaining valuable experience from the course. Stephen has recently completed his NVQ 2 in Horticulture and gained employment with Azure Landscapes. Anne is only a few weeks away from finishing her qualification and the others are all well on their way to completing their NVQs. While on the course, Elizabeth has gained a level 2 qualification in Literacy, Chris Level 1 in Numeracy and Eunice has achieved level 2 in both Literacy and Numeracy. Chris and Eunice both help to support trainees accessing the NVQ 1 horticultural training course.

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Working Together

David has worked as a Sales Assistant at Sainsbury's in Whitley Bay for over 10 years. Azure provides support to David and his employer through the Workstep programme. On joining the store, David worked within the produce team before becoming a member of the groceries department. For over a year now, David has been working within the wines and spirits section of the store with colleagues, John, Paul and Tom. David's role is quite varied and he regularly needs to learn new tasks on the job.

David is responsible for helping to maintain the wines and spirits department, ensuring that the shelves are fully stocked and tidied. Customer service is also an important part of the job and David regularly helps customers with their enquiries.



Sainsbury's Whitley Bay

Under the management of Phil Charlton Grocery Manager, David and the team work well together and have developed a strong working relationship. The team regularly enjoy a game of pool at lunch time in the staff canteen and David often joins them after work for a game of snooker and a few pints in Tynemouth.



Paul and David

It is clear that David works with a team of very supportive people and that this supportive environment exists throughout the store. David thinks very highly of Sainsbury's and the people he works with, he said, 'All the staff are the best in the world'. David's favourite colleague is Store Manager Debra Nicholson who spoke for the staff when

she said, 'David does a fabulous job, he is always happy and smiling and willing to help the customers, he is a really hard worker and a credit to the store.' It is clear that David's success is as much to do with the support he receives at work and from his Workstep Adviser Peter Guest, as it is to do with his own hard work and dedication.

Azure Printing Visit

This month, Allan Lynn and the team at Azure Printing kindly played host to a group of visitors from North Tyneside Council's Longbenton Printing and Imaging Service. Longbenton Printing accesses support through Azure's Workstep programme and is based at Longbenton Community College.

The group, who provide training in printing and related technologies, were interested to find out how Allan and the team run both the training and commercial sides of Azure Printing.



Allan Lynn with visitors Ray, Alan, Tanya, Barrie and Sandra.

Workstep ALI Inspection

Azure Employment Services has recently been informed by ALI that its' Workstep programme will be inspected later this year.

The inspection is a routine process that all Workstep providers have to go through every 4 years.



The inspection is carried out by the Adult Learning Inspectorate on behalf of Jobcentre Plus. The aim of the inspection is to check that organisations like Azure that provide government funded programmes are offering a service that meets a required standard.

You might remember that our Workstep programme was inspected by ALI in December 2002 and you may even have been interviewed by an inspector. We will be asking people to get involved this time round, but we will give everyone plenty of notice and explain exactly what will happen. If you are asked to take part, there is nothing for you to worry about, ALI are inspecting how we provide Workstep and not checking up on you. We will keep you up to date over the next few months on any issues relating to the inspection.