



# NATTER

Issue 14

March 2011

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**Welcome** to the March edition of Natter.

We hope this newsletter continues to be a good source of news and information. Remember this news letter is for you, so if you would like to contribute to future editions please phone, fax or e-mail us (contact details above).

We hope you enjoy reading it.

*Editor*



**DO YOU HAVE THE COUNTRY'S BEST APPRENTICES?  
Apprenticeship awards will honour top 100 employers**

Are you a top Apprenticeship employer? If so, your firm and its apprentices could win national recognition in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2011.

Applications are now open to find England's top apprentices and apprentice employers, who will be heralded at the prestigious National Apprenticeship Awards ceremony in London on 29 June 2011. The awards, run by the National Apprenticeship Service, are open to all organisations that employ apprentices, and to apprentices themselves.

Closing Date for applications is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

For further information please visit: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards)



# Prostart Awards 2011

Applications are now open for the Prostart Awards 2011.

Prostart are holding their annual Celebration Event on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 at The Village Hotel, Chilwell. This event is for all learners that have achieved between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

If you are an employer delivering training with Prostart or on a training programme with Prostart you could be eligible for one of these awards.

- Career Progression Award
- NVQ Achiever Award
- Foundation Learning Award
- Employer of the Year Award
- Apprentice of the Year Award
- Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award



To find out if you are eligible and request an application form, speak to your assessor or contact Claire Bates on 0844 815 0804

Deadline for completed Nomination Forms is 5pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011.

## COMIC RELIEF 2011

### 'Wacky Hat Day'

**Wear a Wacky Hat to Work**



We would love all our learners and companies to take part.  
Please send us Wacky Hat photo's or upload them to the Prostart Facebook page

To donate please go to our giving page: <http://my.rednoseday.com/Prostart>

100% of all money raised will be donated to Comic Relief  
For more information about the event or any of our other activities  
Please contact: - [ninaricci@prostartuk.co.uk](mailto:ninaricci@prostartuk.co.uk) or phone 0844 815 0811

# ‘Street Pride Team’ - Derby City Council



*Pictured: Director of the StreetPride team, Tim Clegg presenting certificates to L- R Mark Yule, Kelvin Jones, Simon Birbeck*

Thanks to the support of Tracy Brown at Prostart, staff at Derby City Council have successfully passed Train to Gain and Apprenticeship funded qualifications in varied subjects. These qualifications have taught my team lots of new skills, helped them to progress with promotions and helped them carry out duties of their jobs that they may have struggled with previously.

Thank you to Tracy and Prostart for your continued support and commitment to the staff here at Derby City Council – Streetpride Team.

**Simon Aitken – Area Manager, Street Pride North – Derby City Council**

# Employer of the month

St Laurence Pre School has been put forward for employer of the month. They are always very welcoming and they ensure that their apprentice is able to do a wide range of activities to meet the requirements of the qualification. They are very flexible and overall very supportive. They are also keen for their apprentice to develop so send her on additional training courses. Overall a great company!!

## Quotes

What we learn with pleasure we never forget.  
**Alfred Mercier**

Only the educated are free.  
**Epictetus**

## Apprenticeship Case Studies

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice/Real-Life-Stories.aspx>

<http://www.prostartuk.co.uk/case-studies.html>

## Equality & Diversity



**New adoption guidelines have been announced by the Government to break down the barriers faced by potential parents and children** - The Telegraph 28 February

Michael Gove, the Education Secretary, said some of the limitations put on adopters in the past - based on ethnicity, sexual orientation and faith - was "social engineering of the worst kind".

Outlining the [adoption guidance](#) being introduced, the minister said: "At the moment, the system simply doesn't allow many of those people who are desperate to help the chance to give young people and children a loving home.

"It has always been the case unfortunately that far too many children are growing up in circumstances where sadly they won't have the architecture or stability that means they can achieve everything of which they are capable."

The Government said progress in adoption has stalled in recent years, with the number of children placed for adoption falling by 15 per cent between March 2009 and 2010, and more children waiting longer to be adopted.

# Equality & Diversity (continued)

Black children took over 50 per cent longer on average to be placed for adoption than children from other ethnic groups, and children over five were four times less likely to be adopted compared to children under five in the last year.

## Notifications from Acas



Default Retirement Age: Subject to Parliamentary approval, the law on the DRA will change on 6th April 2011. Thereafter the DRA will be phased out over a transitional period running until 30 September 2011. The last date on which an employee can be given notice of retirement under the DRA is 5 April 2011. In the future there will be no default retirement age (65) for employees.

Employers need to know about these important changes which if implemented incorrectly or unfairly could result in discriminatory practices. Employers will also now need to consider the effect of these changes on workforce management and planning in their business.

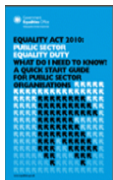
View Acas guidance on working without the default retirement age.

## Thai airline sets transsexual quota - PC Air received more than 100 applications from transgender candidates

A new Thai airline has stuck a blow for equality by setting a quota for hiring transsexual air hostesses.

PC Air received over 100 applications from transgender candidates – known as the “third sex” in Thailand - after promising to take on a minimum of three such employees in its initial recruitment round of 30 cabin crew.

The “pioneering” policy showed how Thailand’s society had changed and demonstrated that transsexuals were not limited to working in the entertainment business, said the airline’s president, Peter Chan



## New Public Sector Equality Duty to Commence April 2011

New guidance has been published by the Coalition Government to help public bodies prepare for the forthcoming Single Equality Duty. The revised duty covers a broad range of new considerations for public bodies when making policy decisions and delivering services. Formally just covering ethnicity, gender and disability, the new duty extends these considerations further to cover age, religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

The new more general duty aims to;

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity and
- Foster good relations

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-duties/new-public-sector-equality-duty-guidance/>

# Equality & Diversity (continued)

## Special dates.....

### March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Hina-matsuri - Festival of Dolls (Shinto)** - Celebrates daughters in the family

**Mahashivratri (Hindu)** - Mahashivratri is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.

### March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Shrove Tuesday (Christian)** - Also called Pancake Day and Mardi Gras. The British name of "Pancake Day" comes from the tradition of making pancakes to use up all the food that could not be eaten during Lent

**Fast of Esther (Taanit Esther) (Jewish)** - A fast in commemoration of the fast of Mordechai and Esther. This is not a major Jewish fast.

### March 17<sup>th</sup>

**St Patrick's Day (Christian)** - St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

### March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Holi (Hindu)** - The Hindu spring festival



## Health & Safety

HSE ran the myth of the month from 2007 to 2010, here is a reminder of one of the myths:

**Myth: All office equipment must be tested by a qualified electrician every year**



### The reality

No. The law requires employers to assess risks and take appropriate action.

HSE's advice is that for most office electrical equipment, visual checks for obvious signs of damage and perhaps simple tests by a competent member of staff are quite sufficient.

For further guidance on this myth and other Health and Safety issues please look at the HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/index.htm>

# Achievers February

Farnsworth	Sophie	Advanced Apprenticeship	NVQ in Business and Administration
Mason	George	Advanced Apprenticeship	NVQ in Business and Administration
Ward	James	Apprenticeship	NVQ in Warehousing and Storage
Golding	William	Apprenticeship	NVQ in Business and Administration
Webster	Sophie Caroline	Apprenticeship	NVQ in Business and Administration
Carter	Matt	Apprenticeship	NVQ in Sales
Frankton	Michael	Apprenticeship	NVQ Certificate in Customer Service
Bostock	Kelly-Marie	Entry To Employment	Entry to Employment
Johnson	Sarah Lynn	Higher Apprenticeship	NVQ in Accounting
Goodband	Laura	Higher Apprenticeship	NVQ in Accounting
Thomson	Jonathan	Higher Apprenticeship	NVQ in Accounting
Smith	Jessica	NVQ2	NVQ in Team Leading
Cross	Megan	NVQ2	NVQ in Business and Administration
Sharman	Stephanie	NVQ3	NVQ in Customer Service
Hart	Teresa	NVQ4	NVQ in Business and Administration

## The Wall

The articles below were written by learners on the **Foundation Learning Programme**.

Cloaked beneath a cloud of grey  
My heartbeat but a storm  
Memories of thunderclaps  
Still tingling and warm  
Raindrops running down my face  
The lightning of your eyes  
Cool stillness after tempest rage  
The scars of harsh goodbyes

Written by Aaron Hoskins – a Foundation Learning student

### **Martin Hunter – Event Organising and DJ'ing**

The atmosphere is electric. There is something in the air; a smell close to tension but miles apart. The taste of the tension coupled with the taste of sweat, makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. When you DJ, the buzz and the energy that constantly pump and courses through your body's blood stream are over whelming.

However DJ'ing was not one of my life long ambitions, in fact the golden opportunity landed in my lap purely by accident. The chance to DJ was only given to me a year and a half ago, when myself and an acquaintance organised an event. Since then things have moved on in leaps and bounds and to this day continue to grow. We had several more successful events in that club, before moving on to a Public House. Sadly our events dissolved, after a disappointing turn out in the pub.

However I still DJ today, and have organised and DJ'd at various venues throughout the length and breadth of the country, including places like Peterborough and Margate. One revenue I am currently contemplating is organising a local singles night for the "sad, old and desperate", as in Long Eaton there is a gap in the market and an opportunity to make money. Although in the early days of DJ'ing I never made money, and in fact I didn't want to make money.

Three of our foundation learners have made it through to the next round of auditions for X Factor. We would like to wish David Plummer, Emma Alldridge and Terri Dooley the very best of luck.

If you'd like your comments posted on 'The Wall' please e-mail [info@prostartuk.co.uk](mailto:info@prostartuk.co.uk) or visit Prostart's Facebook page and post a message.

## Health Corner - Food of the month

Denise's (Healthy Food in the spotlight)

Carrots



High supply of Vitamin A

amount	minerals contained	vitamins contained
Half cup cooked with no added salt contains 0.59 grams protein, 27 calories and 2.3 grams fibre.	<p><a href="#">Potassium</a> - 183 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Calcium</a> - 23 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Phosphorus</a> - 23 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Magnesium</a> - 8 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Iron</a> - 0.27 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Sodium</a> - 5 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Zinc</a> - 0.3 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Copper</a> - 0.052 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Manganese</a> - 0.062 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Selenium</a> - 0.2 mcg</p> <p>Also contains small amounts of other minerals.</p>	<p><a href="#">Vitamin A</a> - 13286 IU</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin C</a> - 2.8 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin B1</a> (thiamine) - 0.051 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin B2</a> (riboflavin) - 0.034 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Niacin</a> - 0.503 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Folate</a> - 11 mcg</p> <p><a href="#">Pantothenic Acid</a> - 0.181 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin B6</a> - 0.119 mg</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin K</a> - 10.7 mcg</p> <p><a href="#">Vitamin E</a> - 0.8 mg</p> <p>Contains some other vitamins in small amounts.</p>

Vitamin A helps cell reproduction. It also stimulates immunity and is needed for formation of some hormones. Vitamin A helps vision and promotes bone growth, tooth development, and helps maintain healthy skin, hair, and mucous membranes. It has been shown to be an effective preventive against measles.

Deficiency can cause night blindness, dry skin, poor bone growth, and weak tooth enamel.

Good News! All learners are entitled to sign up for the free UCAS card.

- Save a packet on the high street with your UCAS discount card.
- Information about the courses and universities you're interested in.
- Expert help from Giles, the UCAS adviser with all the reminders, hints and tips.
- Free copies of *The Independent's 'You Can'* magazine delivered to your door.
- Unlimited use of [yougofurther.co.uk](http://yougofurther.co.uk), the UCAS student network website.



BSM

TOPSHOP

Register at [www.ucas.com/ucascard](http://www.ucas.com/ucascard)

## Thanks for reading!

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[www.prostartuk.co.uk](http://www.prostartuk.co.uk)