

# Mirror Works

CAREER AHEAD WITH YOUR JOBS SECTION

Edited by Tricia Phillips

## JOB WATCH..

OUR WEEKLY  
ROUND-UP  
OF VACANCIES  
NATIONWIDE

●PIZZA delivery company Domino's is cooking up 350 jobs by joining forces with motorway services operator Moto Hospitality to launch 43 new sites.

These new outlets will offer a full menu and be open until 11pm. Customers can order ahead on their phones so the pizza will be ready when they drive into the services.

The first two takeaways, both due to open in spring, will be on the M4 at Leigh Delamare East in Wiltshire and the M40 at Cherwell Valley in Oxfordshire.

Domino's says the new outlets will create jobs for trainee managers, pizza makers and customer service representatives. Recruitment for the first stores will begin shortly. Keep your eye on [www.moto-way.com/careers](http://www.moto-way.com/careers) for more details.

●HAVE you signed up yet for one of the Train to Teach events taking place during March?

Train to Teach is coming to Birmingham Science Museum's Thinktank on March 4 from 9am until 5.30pm and March 5 from 9.30am until 4pm.

It's at London's Science Museum on March 11 from 9am to 6.30pm and March 12 from 9am to 4.30pm.

Then it's at Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry on March 18 from 9am to 5.30pm and March 19 from 9.30am to 4pm.

These events are a great opportunity for anyone considering switching to a career in the classroom to have questions answered.

It offers a presentation on routes into teaching, advice and a chance to chat to teachers about what the job involves.

To book a place at Train to Teach, go to <http://traintoteach.fda.gov.uk/>.

●BUSINESS South 2011 is a must for anyone running their own business, or thinking of setting up on their own.

The show, at Southampton Rose Bowl on March 2 from 10am to 5pm and on March 3 from 10am until 4pm, has attracted dozens of exhibitors offering services and advice on running a small business, plus interactive debates, speed networking and a New Business Zone.

HM Revenue and Customs will also have advisers on hand. To find out more and book your place in advance go to [www.business2businesshow.com/index.asp](http://www.business2businesshow.com/index.asp).

# SET IN STONE

## How Sam built himself a future

BY LAURETTE ZIEMER  
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**SCHOOL was a nightmare for Sam Fairgrieve. He tried hard but always lagged behind his mates.**

When it came to maths and English, he couldn't focus and hated lessons. Sam just couldn't wait to escape.

Just before he took his GCSEs he was diagnosed as dyslexic, but it was too late to help and his results were terrible. "I've never been so demoralised in my life," Sam says. "Each time I went in to sit a two-hour exam I knew I'd be struggling to get anything on paper."

Despite a string of ungraded results, Sam, 22, has turned his life around and is a fully-qualified bricklayer.

"The turning point was when I was given the chance to spend one day a week trying my hand at different trades.

"I went straight for bricklaying and discovered I had a natural talent for it. At last I had found something I was good at and my confidence grew and grew.

"I started to feel normal again - not someone who was always falling behind and struggling to keep up."

### SKILLS

The fact that Sam's dad and many of his relatives were already bricklayers only strengthened his resolve to forge a future for himself in the sector.

"I started writing to local companies looking for an apprenticeship before I had taken my GCSEs," says Sam, who lives in Hinckley, Leicestershire.

"I knew I had to get in there early and show how keen I was. I got invited to an interview at Jelson Homes ([www.jelson.co.uk](http://www.jelson.co.uk)) and went for it.

"The fact that I'd had a go at bricklaying meant I could show them what I could do.

"It wasn't part of the interview but I think the fact that I could show them my basic skills was what got me the job. Jelson's were great - they didn't look at my exam results - only what I could do."

Sam got the three-year apprenticeship but was frightened when he discovered he had to get basic skills in maths and English as part of his training.

"I was enrolled at Leicester College and they were able to give me the extra support I needed. It was very hard work but I eventually passed."

With the tough bit in the bag, Sam went from strength to strength, becoming an

I had finally found something I was good at. My confidence then grew and grew

NVQ Level 3-bricklayer by the time he was 18.

"I got involved in building everything. Jelson's has really taken care of me, even through the hard times.

"It's great to be doing something practical and positive. They never tell you at school how good the construction industry is, but I know for myself that it is a brilliant sector to work in.

"A lot of people think that only academic failures get into this line of work, but that's just not true."

Sam's skills have taken him around the

world. He got the chance to show off his talent in Canada when he got involved with WorldSkills - a group which works to demonstrate how trades such as bricklaying shape our environment.

"It was amazing to be among other people who had similar stories to me and who yet had made a real go of it," says Sam, who came home a medallist after getting the highest cumulative score in the brickwork category.

Sam is living proof that problems with lessons at school don't have to be the end of the

## Chance to show skills

WHATEVER your situation, from school leavers struggling in the tough jobs market, to those who have suffered redundancy or perhaps looking for a career change, here's your chance to have a go at anything from bricklaying and joinery to engineering and hairdressing.

From Monday, colleges, schools, training providers and universities up and down the country will be organising their own Have a Go 'bite size' taster sessions to give you the chance to try out different jobs.

The Have a Go festival, part of WorldSkills London 2011, launches with engineering and robotics company Festo showing off giant flying penguins at London's City Hall. Middlesex University robotics engineers will also let visitors try out their robots.

Other planned events include Have a Go at the Chelsea Flower Show, where you can turn your hand to everything from gardening to floristry.

Motoring giant Honda will also be putting on a variety of Have a Go events during the year.

It will showcase engineering jobs at the British Touring Car Championships during the season across England and Scotland. To find out what is on in your area visit [www.worldskillslondon2011.com/haveago](http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com/haveago).

▲ FIRM FOUNDATION  
Sam Fairgrieve

