

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Issue Seven, Autumn 2011 [worldskillsukalumni.org.uk](http://worldskillsukalumni.org.uk)



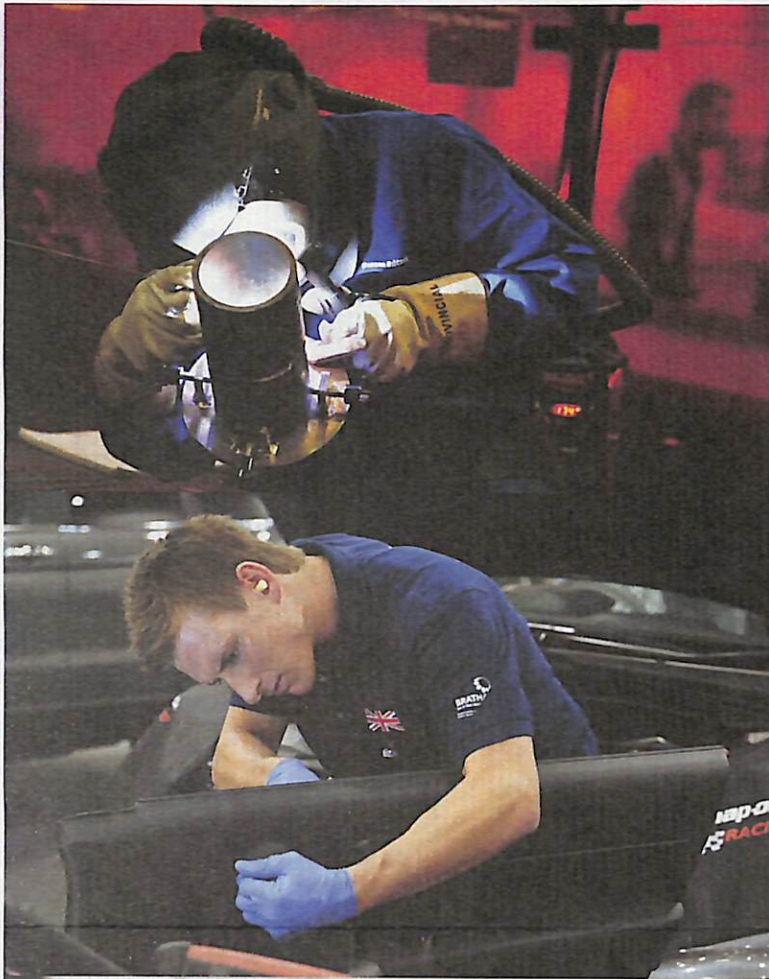
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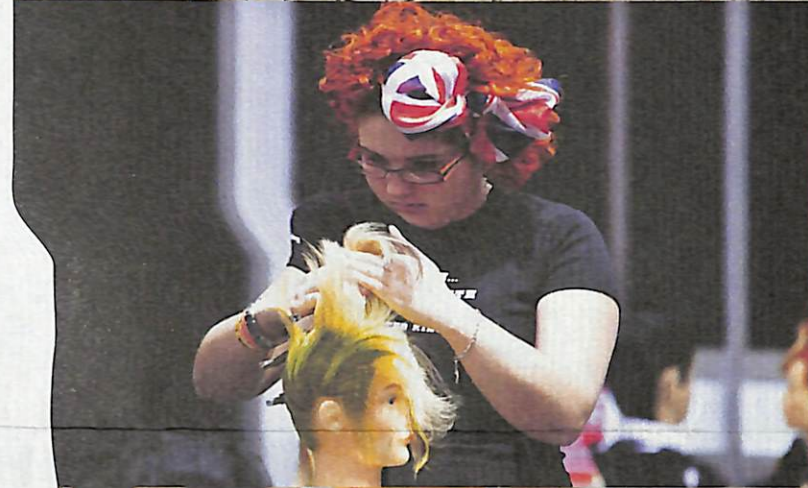
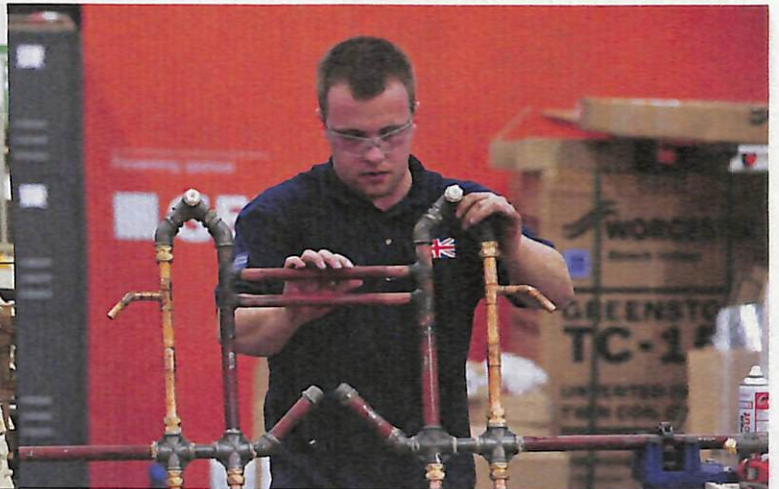
Team UK scoops an outstanding five gold, two silver and six bronze medals at WorldSkills London 2011. **Page 4»»**



## Competitions update Autumn 2011









# I AM... THE PRIDE OF A NATION

Team UK scoops an outstanding five gold, two silver and six bronze medals at WorldSkills London 2011, reports **Harry Smith**



**T**he UK now has another national team to be proud of. It was announced on 9 October that the UK had triumphed at the largest global skills competition to date, WorldSkills London 2011, which took place at ExCeL London, 5 – 8 October, winning an impressive five gold, two silver and six bronze medals. In addition to the thirteen medals, Team UK was also awarded twelve Medallions for Excellence recognising those competitors who exceeded the world class benchmark in their skill.

This result places the UK 5th in the world on medal count in the WorldSkills rankings. This is an increase of two places two places from WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and 6 places from WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007.

Team UK competed against 1000 competitors from 52 countries/regions and were watched by over 200,000 visitors during the four days of tough competition. The results, which are the highest ever achieved by the UK, were announced during an emotional closing ceremony at The O2 Arena, where members of Team UK took to the podium to receive their medals accompanied by thunderous cheers and applause from the audience.

We are proud to congratulate all of Team UK on their fantastic efforts and welcome them as the newest members to the WorldSkills, UK Alumni.

## **Gold**

Cooking – Ben Murphy  
Bricklaying – Philip Green  
Plumbing and Heating – Shane Trevitt  
Stonemasonry – Chris Berridge  
Visual Merchandising – Kirsty Hoadley

## **Silver**

Autobody Repair – Ross Varnam  
Landscape Gardening – James Cuffey  
Landscape Gardening – Simon Abbott

## **Bronze**

Automobile Technology – John Couldridge  
Car Painting – Ben Eaton  
Joinery – Adam Bushnell  
Mechanical Engineering CAD – Ryan Sheridan  
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning – Stuart Miller  
Welding – Jake Rambaldini

## **Medallion for Excellence**

Beauty Therapy – Hayley Wright  
Carpentry – Joe Price  
Confectioner/pastry Cook – Stefan Howells  
Electrical Installations – Chris Young  
Fashion Technology – Rory Andrews  
Floristry – Victoria Richards  
Graphic Design Technology – Jonathan Cleave  
Ladies/Men's Hairdressing – Elizabeth Hale  
Mechatronics – Chris Downey  
Mechatronics – Mark Maginty  
Plastering and Dry Wall Systems – Jamie Fineran  
Restaurant Service – Wojciech Pastor  
Web Design – David Bowen

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Members of Team UK reinforce my strong belief that practical skill is no less worthy of recognition than academic achievement. They have laid the foundations for happy, productive lives for themselves and shown their peers how much talent, hard work and ambition can achieve.

Apprenticeships and other forms of vocational training have taught millions of young people to hold their heads high. They are also vital to the success of thousands of businesses, large and small, that create the jobs and prosperity on which we all depend.

That's why I was proud to support the WorldSkills competition. And that's why, despite tough economic times, the Government is funding the training of more apprentices than at any time in our history.

Young people who don't go to university are sometimes made to feel as if they are somehow second-class. But this is nonsense. As the WorldSkills competition has shown, the practical path to success is as worthy of recognition and celebration as an academic diploma or degree.

**John Hayes**  
Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning

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Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) and Chris Humphries (Chairman, WorldSkills London 2011) on a tour led by Katie Watson-Kyrousis (Team UK 2009)



# I AM... THE TALK OF THE TOWN

The WorldSkills, UK Alumni proved to be the talk of the town at WorldSkills London 2011, says **Sally Eley**

Contributing an estimated £100,000 worth of time to the event, 42 members of the Alumni attended and undertook a diverse range of roles including Workshop Supervisors, speakers at the Business in the Community 'Big Conversation' and tour guides for the Special Guest Programme which saw over 90 high profile influencers and decision makers enjoy personal tours of WorldSkills London 2011.

**Aidan Jones, Chief Executive of WorldSkills London 2011** said he felt that the Alumni had made a significant contribution to the perception of the event. "The WorldSkills, UK Alumni members were fantastic ambassadors for both their skills and WorldSkills London 2011. I heard a great deal of positive feedback about their performance from many of the special guests who visited the event which pays testament to the unique status of this elite group of people who have experienced competing at a WorldSkills Competition."

A huge thank you to all our Alumni volunteers who helped make WorldSkills London 2011 such an amazing experience for all those involved:

## Workshop Supervisors & Assistants

Alistair Birt	Team UK 2009
Charlotte Burford	Team UK 2009
Chris Nurse	Team UK 2003
Daniel Burpitt	Team UK 1997
Daniel Cain	Team UK 2009
Gary Tuddenham	Team UK 2007
Jade Kidd	Team UK 2007
Jenna Bailey	Team UK 1999
Melanie Adlam	Team UK 2009
Robin Kyte	Team UK 1971
Sam Fairgrieve	Team UK 2009
Stephen Powell	Team UK 2003
Stephen Woolley	Team UK 2003
Will Gadd	Team UK 2009

## Special Guest Programme Volunteers

Adam Peirson	Team UK 2003
Alexander Bellini	Team UK 2005
Andrew Gunson	Squad UK 2011
Blake Fewster	Squad UK 2011
Charlotte Macey	Squad UK 2011
Dean Jones	Team UK 2009
Doug Hill	Team UK 1953
Hannah Clague	Squad UK 2011
Keith Chapman	Team UK 2007
Katie Kyrousis	Team UK 2009
Linzi Weare	Team UK 2009
Luke Griffiths	Team UK 2009

Marc Pate	Squad UK 2009
Mark Nevin	Team UK 2009
Martin Eusebi	Team UK 2009
Richard Sagar	Team UK 2009
Richard Talman	Team UK 2001
Sadie Jones	Squad UK 2011
Trevor Woods	Team UK 2009
Will Torrent	Team UK 2007

## Competition Support Volunteers

Hugo Landau	Team UK 2009
Joe Massie	Team UK 2009
Katie Wright	Squad UK 2011
Mark Brown	Squad UK 2011
Mark Charlton	Team UK 1999
Matthew Fitzgerald	Squad UK 2011
Oliver King	Squad UK 2011
Rhydian Williams	Squad UK 2011

# I AM... A BIG SUCCESS

Three Alumni members recognised with a 2011 Alumni Award as the outstanding nominations make the judge's job almost impossible, reports **Harry Smith**

Jenna Bailey, Joe Massie and Richard Sagar have all been presented with a WorldSkills, UK Alumni Award, in recognition of their ongoing achievements and their continued commitment to the promotion of vocational skills and education. The Awards, sponsored by Edge, run annually and are open to all past members of Team UK who have competed at an international WorldSkills competition.

The hard work and passion of the Alumni was recognised as nominations flooded in from across the skills community from our training managers to our partners and sponsors as well as from Alumni members themselves. The nominations were of such a high standard that it made the judges' job almost impossible. When a decision was finally reached three winners were identified.

Jenna, who competed at WorldSkills Montreal 1999 in Beauty Therapy, won the Award for Most Valuable Contribution to Skills and Practical Learning. Since

competing Jenna has remained heavily involved in skills competitions acting as the Associate Trainer for the Beauty Therapy Skill. Jenna is always taking on additional roles and responsibilities to promote vocational education including being an Alumni Activist, the Workshop Supervisor for Beauty Therapy at WorldSkills London 2011 and a regional and national judge for WorldSkills UK.

Joe, who competed at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 in Floristry, won the Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of his contribution to the floristry industry. After bringing home the bronze medal for the UK Joe was headhunted for the position of senior designer at Manchester's Springbank Flowers. Earlier this year Joe was crowned the RHS Chelsea Young Florist of the Year for the third time in a row. In 2010 Joe flew the flag for Britain again when he joined Europe's most talented florists to compete in Eurofleurs, where he was awarded 2nd place – the highest position ever achieved by a British competitor.

Richard, who competed at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 in Electrical Installation, also won the Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of his entrepreneurial success. After winning Gold at WorldSkills, Richard was head hunted to work as an Electrical Supervisor on the £600,000,000 renovation of BBC Broadcasting House. He now runs his own business, Sagar Smart Homes, which installs home automation systems in some of London's most opulent properties. Richard employs two members of staff, one of which represented Australia and competed against Richard at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and the other is an apprentice.

Nominations for the 2012 Alumni Awards will be open in summer 2012.

*We'd like to receive your latest news about developments in your career and life to date. If you've recently got married, got a new job, been given an award or have some other news you'd like to share, please contact [harry.smith@ukskills.org.uk](mailto:harry.smith@ukskills.org.uk)*





Peter Mitchell (Director of Education, Edge) with award winners Jenna Bailey (Team UK 1999) and Joe Massie (Team UK 2009) at the WorldSkills UK Annual Awards Ceremony





Celebrity jobswap Anne Diamond tries carpentry at Reading College



# I AM... ALL THAT AND MORE

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## National Apprenticeship Week 6 – 10 February 2012. By **Dawn Hirst**

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**T**he fifth annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place from 6-10 February next year and looks set to be the biggest and best yet, with hundreds of events expected to take place across the country.

The Week, which is co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, is designed to celebrate Apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals and businesses.

Every year the Week increases in popularity and Apprenticeship Week 2011 was a phenomenal success, with more than 500 events and activities on offer. These ranged from business events designed to encourage more employers to recruit apprentices to interactive careers events aimed at potential apprentices.

Some of last year's more unusual activities included: TV presenter Ann Diamond carrying out a job swap with a

carpentry apprentice from Reading College; employers and potential apprentices learning more about the engineering skills involved in producing a 1,000 mph car, from the current World Land Speed record holders at an event organised by Derby College; and potential apprentices competing in a "bake off" challenge run by Barnsley based baker and confectioner Fosters Bakery.

A huge range of organisations support Apprenticeship Week by organising activities including employers, business support and sector organisations, learning providers, colleges, schools and local authorities.

**Simon Waugh, Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service,** said: "Apprenticeships provide businesses with a significant return on investment by increasing productivity and introducing fresh new talent and innovation to

organisations. Apprenticeship Week is a time to celebrate and highlight these successes - and urge more companies to reap the benefits for themselves and encourage more individuals to consider Apprenticeships as their chosen career option."

Everyone with an interest in Apprenticeships can get involved in the Week. This could range from running and promoting your own Apprenticeship Week themed events or activities, to attending one of the many events that will be taking place in your region. A toolkit with lots of practical advice and ideas to help you run your own events is available on the [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) website. A national calendar of events will also be available on the website too, so you can find out what is happening in your local area.





## Congratulations and thank you from Edge. By Susan Higgins

Edge would like to thank the WorldSkills UK Alumni who played an incredibly important role in making WorldSkills London 2011 such a great success. Your involvement was critical in helping raise perceptions of the excellence that can be achieved when taking the technical, practical and vocational route to work. You are, simply, an inspiration to others.

One thing which the WorldSkills UK Alumni prove is that there is no single, right or wrong, way to succeed. A great number of you have reached the pinnacle of your craft and technical success and many have done so at a remarkably early age. But you didn't all go about it the same way. Some of you were former apprentices, many studied full time or part time at a further education college. A number of you are university graduates and some of you have done all three!

For Edge, what matters is that everyone given the chance to compete in WorldSkills is a role model for others. Maybe that's not the way you saw it when you represented

your country - but that's how Edge sees it. You all have stories to tell. You all have it in you to inspire the next generation of medal winners.

That's why Edge was so keen to be involved. Not only do we want to take pride in the best skills this country can offer, but we want everyone, young and not so young, to share in our pride. That way, we really will achieve our aim - to raise the status of technical, practical and vocational learning.

As positive role models, the WorldSkills UK Alumni members play an important role in inspiring young people to explore their own talents through hands-on and skills-related learning. And by adding your voice to Edge's campaigning, you can help make sure that technical, practical and vocational options are valued and are available to future generations.

WorldSkills celebrates the success of people who have already decided to become experts in their field. But how do we persuade more young people that this is the path they, too, could follow?

The WorldSkills UK Alumni contain an incredible store of knowledge and experience. You know what works. You know the people whose lives have been changed by work-based training. Edge needs your help. If we are to elevate the practical, we must get better at telling the stories of people like yours.

With your help Edge will continue to tell your stories, in partnership with colleges, training providers, awarding bodies and other organisations. Edge will also continue to look for good practice and good ideas, to make sure the good news spreads.

Many thanks to all of you, congratulations on your achievements and very best wishes for your continued success and, hopefully, your continued support for WorldSkills.

We will soon be in touch with our support requests for VQ Day 2012, if you are interested in getting involved please visit [www.vqday.org.uk](http://www.vqday.org.uk)



There are many paths to success

Premier supporter of Squad and Team UK and sponsor of WorldSkills, UK Alumni