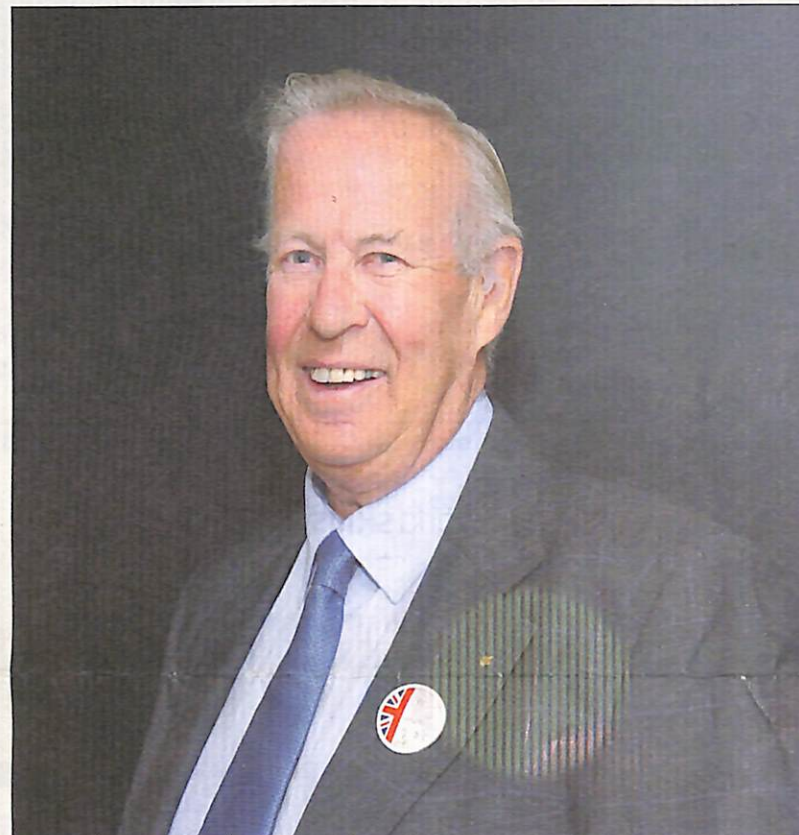


## Where are they now? Doug's story



General Franco presenting Doug Hill with his silver medal at the El Prado Palace, 1953



Doug Hill 2010

by Harry Smith

ONE WORLDSKILLS, UK Alumni member who is eagerly awaiting the start of WorldSkills London 2011 is 74 year old Doug Hill. Doug holds the coveted title of being the UK's first competitor at WorldSkills, winning a Silver Medal in wood working at Madrid in 1953.

Doug has fond memories of his time competing, not least the 48 hour journey it took him to get to the event! Doug and his father set off from Kent for Madrid in their Vauxhall Velox with Doug's tools and bespoke loom threaded with the Spanish flag that he had prepared for the competition. But they almost didn't make it when the car started cutting out on the way into Spain. Luckily a mechanic was on hand and with no spare parts available fixed the engine with a cork from a wine bottle to ensure Doug made the start of the competition.

The preparation Doug undertook for WorldSkills was very different from the training programme many of our more recent Alumni members have completed. Having learned his trade as an Apprentice in his father's loom factory, Doug had no dedicated training manager to help support his preparation for the Competition. Instead he learned his trade from his father and colleagues in the factory. Doug is amazed when he learns of the training undertaken by today's competitors but believes this only highlights how important taking part in the WorldSkills Competition is; not only for the individual competitors' career but for UK industry as a whole.

Arriving in Madrid, Doug presented his work to the international judges and demonstrated his skills. He was presented to General Franco at the El Prado Palace where he received his silver medal.

Brimming with confidence from his WorldSkills experience, Doug returned to the UK to complete his apprenticeship as a Woodworker in the Douglas Andrew Ltd's Loom Factory before being called up for national service. Doug then worked in the City of London before becoming a partner in his Uncle's business which produced show cards. Having inherited his father's entrepreneurial skills Doug spotted an opportunity to break into a new and emerging market. Doug changed his existing workforce from engineers to woodworkers and set about making high quality notice boards. The business was a success and Hill Brothers Service Ltd supplied notice boards to businesses up and down the country including Norwich Union, Natwest and the Bank of England. The Company was also responsible for creating the first ever flight indicator board for Heathrow airport.

Now in his retirement, Doug is finally enjoying his passion for trains by helping to rebuild a steam engine at Didcot Heritage Centre. In this role Doug has learned new skills and has been able to pass on his knowledge to the next generation of workers, an excellent example of life long learning.

*We would like to encourage as many of our Alumni members as possible to re-connect and engage with each other in an online community. This can be used not only on a social level but also to exchange professional and personal career development advice and keep up to date with the latest news.*

*We have set up an 'Alumni Group' on Facebook which we would encourage you to join to re-connect with your former teammates. If you already have a Facebook account you can do this by searching for the WorldSkills, UK Alumni group and 'request to join'. Please help us to encourage as many of your former teammates to join!*

THURSDAY

**Alumni Awards  
Nomination  
Deadline**

30 SEPTEMBER 2010

FRIDAY

**2010  
Alumni Event  
Manchester**

22 OCTOBER 2010



# Latest Alumni Activity

**Adam Smith (Team UK 2009)** was awarded Young Chef of the Year at the Craft Guild of Chefs Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Lancaster Hotel in London on 24 June. Adam proved his talent to the world when he won a gold medal at WorldSkills, the first gold in Cooking for the UK in 15 years! Described as having a "natural talent" and being a "very hard working chef", he now holds the position of Premier Sous Chef at The Ritz.

IN SUPPORT of VQ Day 23 June 2010, UK Skills showcased two skills represented at WorldSkills, Beauty Therapy and Confectionery, with live demonstrations and 'Have a Go' activities.

Our world class confectioner, **Alistair Birt (Team UK 2009)**, demonstrated his skills by making various chocolate designs which he added to one of his impressive chocolate centre pieces on display. Alistair also helped visitors to get their hands dirty and make some summer chocolate truffles of their own.

Visitors also had the opportunity to design and create their very own nail art with the help of **Charlotte Burford (Team UK 2009)** and **Jenna Bailey (Team UK 1999)**. Charlotte and Jenna also demonstrated some of their world class techniques and skills, offering some inspiration to the visiting students.



Alistair Birt (Team UK 2009) preparing chocolate for the VQ Day confectionery 'Have a go'



Katie Watson (Team UK 2009) 'VQ Learner of the Year' (25 and under) runner up

**Katie Watson (Team UK 2009)** was the runner up for this years 'VQ Learner of the Year' (25 and under) Scotland. The 'VQ Learner of the Year' Awards recognise those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding skill, achievement and commitment as vocational learners.

David Harbourne, Director of Policy and Research at Edge, was joined by **Will Torrent (Team UK 2007)** and **Charlotte Burford (Team UK 2009)** at the first UK Festival of Education hosted by Wellington College 3-4 July. During the session 'Vocational Pathways to Success' Will and Charlotte shared their strong feelings about the need to promote WorldSkills and address the perception of vocational pathways.

**Adam Smith (Team UK 2009)**, **Will Torrent (Team UK 2007)** and **Harry Smith (Team UK 2007)** attended this year's Apprenticeship Awards held at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge on the 15 July 2010. During the Awards John Hayes MP gave a passionate speech on his desire to see the UK leading the way in driving apprenticeships and for them to be recognized on an equal footing as traditional academic routes in supporting the growth of the UK economy.

**Jenna Bailey (Team UK 1999)** and **Harry Smith (Team UK 2007)** attended the launch of Pearson's BTEC Alumni as members of the new organisation for individuals who have completed a BTEC qualification. The launch ceremony held at the House of Commons on 19 July was attended by individuals from the education and business sectors and members of parliament including David Willetts MP.

**Adam Smith (Team UK 2009)** & **Richard Sagar (Team UK 2009)** were invited to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 22 July 2010 in recognition of their achievements at WorldSkills Calgary 2009. Adam and Richard had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty the Queen during the garden party and talked to her and other attendees about their experiences at WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

There are many opportunities to share your experiences as a past competitor, and in doing so, inspire others to improve their skills. Examples of this may be talking to the media, speaking at a UK Skills or sector event, or providing case studies to promote practical vocational education and learning. Professional media and presentation training can be made available for all Alumni members who would like to sign up to be part of the engagement aspect of the programme.



Adam Smith (Team UK 2009) and Richard Sagar (Team UK 2009), Buckingham Palace, 22 July 2010



# WorldSkills UK

by Katie Bracher

AS AUTUMN approaches and the 2010/11 WorldSkills UK competition cycle is due to launch, the vast majority of our competition finals for 2010 have now taken place. We have been fortunate enough this year to run many of our competitions as part of larger, high-profile events such as:

- Wessex Salon Culinaire at the Bournemouth International Centre on 16 March, where three hospitality competitions took place
- Beauty UK at the NEC Birmingham and the Scottish Beauty Show at the Edinburgh Royal Highland played host to competition heats for the beauty sector.
- Visual Merchandising took place at the InStore Show at Olympia on 29 and 30 June, with celebrity Mary Portas onsite during the last day of competition to present medals to the winning entries.
- All of the IT competition finals, together with the



WorldSkills UK Nail Technology competitor at Beauty UK, NEC Birmingham

final for Graphic Design and Web Design, were held at Middleton Hall in The Centre:MK on 2 and 3 July.

- The UK finals for floristry and landscape gardening will be taking place in September at the Malvern

Autumn Show. We will be including two new competitions within our portfolio for next year's

competition cycle: Automotive Glazing and Construction Metal Sheet Works. Both of these competitions will fall within our engineering sector, with Construction Metal Sheet Works being organised by SEMTA, and Automotive Glazing by ProSkills.

We are, however, no longer running several of our current competitions as they have not managed to attract the necessary industry ownership and support. These include: Uniformed Services, Performing Arts: Acting and Musical Theatre, Made to Measure: Fashion Design and The Big Leap: Entrepreneurship. We will also no longer be running a framework of hospitality competitions; rather, we will be scouting for talent at current industry-run events to identify potential competitors for international competitions.

# Bloomin' Talented



by Emma Ward

**Joe Massie (Team UK 2009)** flew the flag for Britain when he joined some of Europe's most talented florists to compete at Eurofleurs 2010, which took place at RHS Show Tatton Park, 20 - 23 July 2010.

Eurofleurs, held every four years, brings together the highest standards in competitive floristry for under 25s in Europe and gives competitors the opportunity to showcase their craftsmanship and skill on an international platform.

Joe and his fellow competitors were set five floristry tasks, all themed around the concept of 'Art of Tatton'. Each task enabled the competitors to demonstrate their creative and technical abilities. The competition was judged by members of the UK Floristry Judges Guild and representatives from FLORINT, the international organisation of florists.

Joe's efforts at the competition were awarded 2nd place, the highest position

ever achieved by a British competitor and he narrowly missed out on the top spot by 0.1 marks.

Joe previously represented the UK as a floristry competitor at WorldSkills Calgary in September 2009, where his fantastic performance saw him achieve a bronze medal. Joe has also achieved an impressive total of six gold medals at other national competitions, including RHS Chelsea Young Florist of the Year which he won consecutively in 2009 and this year (May 2010).



# Be part o



## Key milestones

*Valerie McBurney, WorldSkills London 2011's new Head of Corporate Communications talks about some of the key milestones coming up over the next few months.*

The WorldSkills London 2011 team are working to deliver an outstanding event in 2011, but our goal is to inspire more young people to be enterprising in their careers and achieve a step change in how people view their future options. That means showcasing vocational qualifications as a positive and valued choice at all levels and the skills that the country needs.

In the run up to WorldSkills London 2011 we will be working with a range of partners, sponsors and the education community to help deliver a UK-wide, three-week celebration of skills 19 September - 9 October. By enabling as many people as

possible to 'have a go' at a range of new skills we aim to amaze and inspire people by showing them the enormous array of opportunities available and illustrating how skills can boost their employability. We envisage lots of opportunities for Alumni members, colleges and employers to get involved so we'll keep you informed as plans develop.

To make sure the three-week celebration has maximum impact early preparation is vital. That's why, from October to December 2010, we will be launching a number of 'activation packs' and 'toolkits' on the website. This information will ensure that partners, sponsors, teachers and volunteers have the practical advice and resources they need to help us deliver a wide-range of imaginative events and activities in the run up to WorldSkills London 2011.

## Great opportunities for

VOLUNTEERS are crucial to WorldSkills London 2011 – in fact they are so essential that without their involvement we would not be able to stage the event.

We estimate that we need over 2,500 volunteers – which means there are plenty of opportunities for Alumni members and others to take part. Alumni members provide a unique and especially valuable perspective on the running of the Competition – having had 'hands on' experience as competitors.

From 7 October 2010 we are asking potential volunteers to provide an 'expression of

interest' in volunteering by signing up online. There are many roles available including:

- Have a Go Assistant – helping to create unique, interactive, and challenging Have a Go demonstrations that will captivate visitors.
- Tour Guide (Special Guests Programme) – helping to escort special guests around the event. (We believe that Alumni members are particularly suited to these roles, as you will be able to talk about how your experiences as a competitor have helped to shape your career.)



# fit...



## world skills London 2011

### Showcasing skills that shape our world

# for 2010 WorldSkills London 2011 facts and figures

In October 2010 we will also be releasing important information for member countries about how to register and about the packages available for visiting teams. We will also be trialling our education resources at Skills London and on the website.

In November 2010 we will be launching the volunteer website – urging Alumni and a range of young people to sign up as volunteers for 2011. On 17 November, UK Skills will be announcing Squad UK at the Association of Colleges Conference and briefing the college community about WorldSkills London 2011.

Finally, we expect WorldSkills London 2011 to be much more visible in the media over the next few months as we start to roll out our PR and media plans and announce the one-year countdown.

## volunteers

If you are an Alumni member but you are not able to volunteer we would like to ask you to support the programme by helping to promote the opportunity to others.

Registrations begin online on 7 October at [www.worldskillslondon2011.com](http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com)

Everyone who registers their interest online will be emailed a link in December when the full Volunteer Site goes live. For further information contact Julia Bowditch, Head of Volunteering at: [jbowditch@worldskillslondon2011.com](mailto:jbowditch@worldskillslondon2011.com)

Julia will also be attending the Alumni event so if you would like to hear more come along on 22 October.

When people ask you about WorldSkills London 2011 what should you say and how can you be sure you're using the right facts and figures?

The WorldSkills London 2011 marketing team has compiled a quick checklist to make sure Alumni members and other key spokespeople have the right information to hand...

#### How will WorldSkills London make a difference?

- Every community and business in the UK thrives on skills, enterprise and inspiration: WorldSkills London 2011 will be the catalyst that sparks the ambitions of people across the country.
- WorldSkills London 2011 will amaze people by showing them the endless possibilities their futures could hold and inspire them to gain expertise at the highest level to provide the UK needs.
- WorldSkills London 2011 aims to help create a lasting legacy in the UK, where the awareness and perception of vocational education and skills will undergo a positive step change.
- Involvement with the competition provides huge benefits for everyone, whether they are a participant, visitor, employer or sponsor.

#### The numbers...

- 150,000 people are expected to attend
- 1,000 competitors will be taking part
- 50 nations will be competing
- 45 skills will feature as competitions
- 4 days of competition will be taking place

#### The event...

##### What?

- WorldSkills is a unique global competition where young people from across the world compete to become the best of the best. At stake: the honour of being the greatest in the world at their chosen skill.
- The competition takes place every two years – WorldSkills London 2011, hosted by the UK, will be the 41st WorldSkills Competition.

##### When?

- The event will be held from 5th to 8th October 2011 at ExCeL London.
- In the run up to WorldSkills London 2011, celebrations will take place across the UK to ensure everyone can show how skills shape their world. (Look out for details in future issues of the Alumni Newsletter.)

##### Who?

- Competitors are young people – generally aged 22 or under (apart from a few exceptions where the upper age limit is 25) – who excel at a particular skill.
- Many countries, including the UK, hold extensive local and regional heats before selecting their national teams, so representatives at the global level truly are the very best of the best.

##### How?

- WorldSkills London 2011 will involve over 1,000 competitors from 50 nations competing in 45 vocational skills over four days of intense competition.
- Young people compete for medals in 45 categories from six sectors, ranging from creative arts and fashion to transportation and logistics.
- Competitors vie for the chance to win gold, silver or bronze medals, while medallions for excellence are also awarded to competitors who achieve the international standard.

##### So it's going to be big then?

- WorldSkills is the largest international vocational skills competition in the world and London looks set to be the biggest and best yet. The scale of the event is enormous:
  - ExCeL London has over 90,000m<sup>2</sup> of space, the equivalent of ten Wembley Stadium pitches.
  - About 150,000 visitors are expected, which would fill the Royal Albert Hall 27 times over.

##### How will we do?

- Team UK ranked seventh in the World at Calgary 2009, up four places since the competition in Shizuoka, Japan, in 2007.
- For WorldSkills London 2011 the targets for Team UK are high: a team entry to 30 skills competitions; 10 medals, of which five should be gold; and a top five ranking.

##### And who do we need to beat?

- South Korea has topped the medal table for the past two competitions, coming second in 2005 – Japan, Brazil and Switzerland also rank consistently highly.
- The Australians are another team to watch, ranking fifth in 2007 and dropping down to sixth in Calgary. They are sure to want to regain their place in the top five in 2011.
- Germany has dropped down the table in recent years, from a fourth place ranking in 2005 to eleventh in 2009.
- The USA also has some work to do if it is to become a major player in the competition – the past two tournaments have seen the Americans coming in thirty-first place.

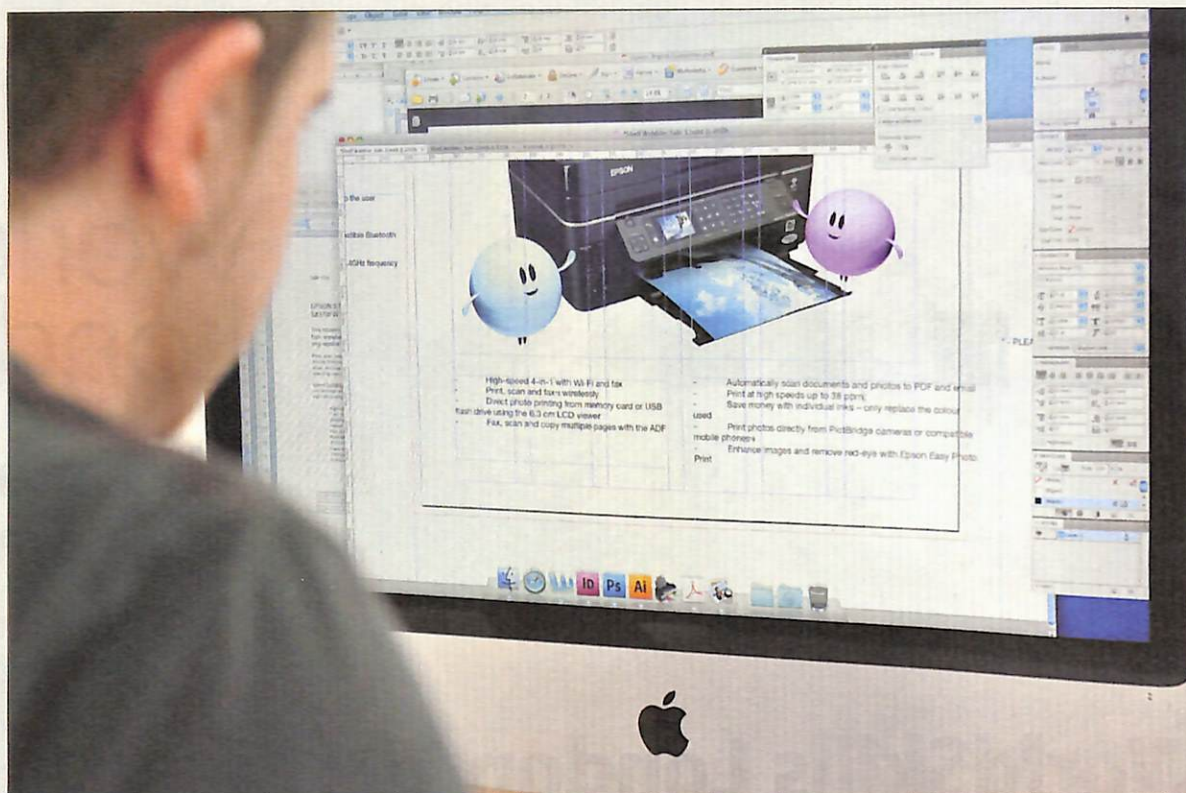


# The Journey to WorldSkills London 2011

by Jenny Shackleton

During the last six months especially the International Competitions Team has been preoccupied with short listing events and assessments. If this sounds new to our Alumni, that's because it is. We thought that we could raise the potential UK's competitors' skills even higher than for 2009 if we inserted another test before squad selection.

So that's what we've done, and a number of Alumni have helped us in running them, supporting competitors and, generally in the case of our older Alumni, acting as judges. Thus we have been assisted by "old hands" like Keith Chapman (Team UK 2007) for Landscape Gardening, Jenna Bailey (Team UK 1999) and Jade Kidd (Team UK 2007) for Beauty Therapy, and Steve Powell (Team UK 2003) for Painting and Decorating, and new helpers such as Tom



Jonathan Cleave at the Graphic Design Technologies shortlisting competition

Coppock (Squad UK 2009) for Bricklaying and Will Gadd (Team UK 2009) for Landscape

Gardening.

But the positive influence of our alumni has spread in

other important ways. Kevin Calpin was surprised at the methodical way in which one

of the long listed stonemasons set about his work, until he realised that he was one of the apprentices that Marc Pate (Squad UK 2009) was supervising. The contribution that our Alumni like Marc are making in raising skills for work from satisfactory to exceptional is the best possible reason for the UK to invest in skills competitions in the first place.

So thank you to all our Alumni for helping to build best practice and a respect for quality.

As past WorldSkills competitors you may have the opportunity to share your direct experience with future competitors. With more training and experience you may also be invited to observe and ultimately be involved in training and assessment.

You may also be invited to train as a mentor for future competitors. This will not only have a positive impact on them but you will also be learning a valuable life skill.

For more information, please contact [adanna.shallowe@ukskills.org.uk](mailto:adanna.shallowe@ukskills.org.uk)

## My Skills Story...

by Gary Collier

I KNEW VERY little about Stonemasonry when I applied for an Apprenticeship at the age of 16. Less than five years later, after a huge amount of dedication, determination and training I became a World Champion in Stonemasonry winning the silver medal at WorldSkills Helsinki 2005.

My journey to WorldSkills started whilst I was working towards my apprenticeship at Lloyd and Smith Ltd based in Oldham. I found out about the Competition and wanted to get involved. I began competing in SkillBuild competitions, which are run by Construction Skills in partnership with UK Skills. Following success at this competition, I spent the next year working with UK Skills to prepare myself for the rigours of international competition with the hope of securing a place in Team UK. As part of my training I worked with letter cutters, template makers, lecturers and tutors based all around the country. I honed my skills and won the chance to represent the UK and compete against the best of the best at WorldSkills.

After putting in the preparation and having some incredible support from

my employer and training manager, Kevin Calpin; walking away with the Silver Medal has to be my WorldSkills highlight. The experience of competing at this level has been a springboard for my career in the industry and has set out a promising future in front of me.

Since competing at WorldSkills, I have tried to stay involved with the work of UK Skills. The high level of training that I received from the organisation has been invaluable and I now have the opportunity to pass on my knowledge to the two apprentices I currently work with. In the run up to WorldSkills Calgary 2009, I was invited to be a second marker at the Team Selection competition. It was great meeting the competitors and witnessing how passionate they were about being good at their job and wanting to achieve great things. This made working with them a real pleasure.

I'm still employed by for Lloyd and Smith Ltd who have put so much time and interest in to my career since I first started competing. I now hold the position of Contracts Manager and I'm currently

running a £1.2 million project on an 18th century gothic church in Manchester. I have climbed the career ladder from apprentice to the management team in a relatively short space of time. My responsibilities include overseeing the production and quality of all the work produced. I'm also responsible for training the 15 strong workforce employed by Lloyd and Smith Ltd. I continue to build on my skills and hope to be in a position to take over the running of the company in the next 5 to 10 years.

Looking forward to WorldSkills London 2011, I hope Team UK achieve great things as the opportunities waiting for those talented individuals will be vast. Looking at the past successes of Team UK the medal count is rising at quite a rate and it will hopefully continue to do so. Whatever the outcome of the competition the whole of the UK has the opportunity to witness quality workmanship and skills from around the world. This can only encourage young people to want to learn more about what they have seen and help us build a talented workforce for the future.





# Katie Watson recognised at 'Annual Awards of Excellence'

by Emma Ward

**Katie Watson (Team UK 2009)** was crowned 'Young Waiter of the Year' at the Academy of Culinary Arts Annual Awards of Excellence 2010. The awards were announced during a glittering gala dinner at the Dorchester on July 20.

Running since 1983 and regarded as one of the Academy's most important education and training initiatives, the Annual Awards of Excellence serve to recognise the talents and ambitions of young chefs, pastry chefs and waiters between the ages of 20 – 26. The awards aim to inspire and encourage young people to achieve the highest possible standards in their profession.

Katie, who achieved the bronze medal in Restaurant Service at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, added to her list of awards after impressing the judges with her product knowledge, technical service

skills, interpersonal skills and teamwork. Required to decant and describe wines to the judging panel and set up and serve a three course meal including wines and liqueurs to a table of two guest judges, Katie was the highest scorer in her category.

As well as being presented with her trophy by President of the Academy of Culinary Arts Brian Turner and Honorary President of the Awards, Heston Blumenthal, Katie will also have the opportunity to spend a day's work experience at Heston's award winning restaurant the Fat Duck.

*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)*



# Skills London 2010

WITH JUST over a year to go until WorldSkills London 2011, preparations for the big competition are ramping up with a 'taster' event running at Skills London from 7-9 October 2010.

Skills London, which takes place at ExCeL London, marks the start of the official countdown to WorldSkills London 2011 and kicks off a year-long programme of events and activities taking place across the UK.

The event will include:

- Taster sessions of some of the skills that will be showcased at the 2011 competition delivered with support from partners and sponsors. Visitors will be able to try out auto body repairs, discover welding with chocolate, get their hands dirty with landscape gardening, experience the thrill of a flight simulator, bring out their artistic talents with nail art and have a go at many more exciting activities.
- Information, advice and guidance provided by City & Guilds and the National Apprenticeship Service. A number of Alumni members have already signed up to talk to visitors about their skills competition experiences and what WorldSkills London 2011 will look like.
- An official announcement of the WorldSkills London 2011 sponsors and of plans



Keith Chapman (Team UK 2007) assisting with the Landscape Gardening 'Have a go' at Skills London 2008

to work with schools and colleges to engage as many of the UK's young people as possible.

- The first opportunity to sign up for information on the volunteer programme the WorldSkills 2011 team

is aiming to recruit 2,500 volunteers, with all sorts of skills, to help deliver WorldSkills London 2011. Alumni members welcome!

Every community and business in the UK thrives on skills, enterprise and

inspiration. We want WorldSkills London 2011 to be the catalyst that sparks the ambitions not just of competitors but of people all across the UK – opening their minds to the possibilities their futures may hold.

For more information on Skills London 2010 and the competition in 2011 visit the WorldSkills London 2011 website to register for updates.



# Mark Nevin inspires at SchoolBuild 2010



Stephen Sheridan (ConstructionSkills Careers & Qualifications Manager) and Mark Nevin (Team UK 2009)

by Harry Smith

CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS partnered with Edinburgh's Telford College developed SchoolBuild 2010, a construction competition bringing a 'competition' element to the curriculum of 14-16 year olds. Working in teams of two, the competition ran on Friday 18 June with 19 teams of pupils competing in one of three competitions which included Bricklaying, Joinery or Painting & Decorating.

Mark Nevin (Team UK 2009) trained at Edinburgh's Telford College during his apprenticeship and returned during SchoolBuild to judge the Painting & Decorating competition. During one of the breaks, Mark was interviewed by John Laing, Head of Construction at Edinburgh's Telford College. He talked about his apprenticeship,

SkillBuild and WorldSkills in front of government officials, employers, competitors and their tutors. Mark's interview demonstrated to the young competitors the possibilities that Skills Competitions offer including the chance to be the best of the best at your chosen skill.

Mark, who also helped judge the painting & decorating competition at this year SkillBuild final, delivered another inspirational speech at the Awards Ceremony Dinner on the 10 September at Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

*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)*

## VQ DAY 2010

by Andi Neophytou

23 JUNE SAW the third annual VQ Day celebrating vocational success throughout the UK. National events were held in London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast with over 300 colleges, learning providers and employers getting involved in the celebrations.

For the first time 4 million vocational qualifications were achieved in the United Kingdom - a 12 per cent increase on the previous year. This shows the progress that has been made in the past year. A big congratulations to all those that have achieved vocational success in the past 12 months.

This year VQ Day's English celebration took place at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London. The day was split into two halves; the first part of the day involved over 100 senior business leaders debating the impact and the future of vocational qualifications in the workplace. This included a panel of contributors from Whitbread, McDonalds, Merseytravel and Clugstons Construction who are all

committed to vocational qualifications in the workplace. Feedback from the session showed that employers want a greater recognition of vocational qualifications.

Entertainment icon Arlene Phillips OBE, hosted the afternoon session which was attended by nearly 400 teachers, students, opinion formers, MPs, learning providers and employers. There were 19 interactive zones showcasing vocational excellence such as furniture making, forensic science, media make up, auto mechanics and confectionary. All zones allowed guests to sample the variety of practical learning opportunities that are available.

The afternoon session also saw learners being rewarded for their vocational excellence through the VQ Day Learner of the Year Awards and the Industry Insider Prize. The Awards saw nearly 500 nominations come in from across the UK. Liz Bedwell, City College Brighton and



Hove received the VQ Learner of the Year under 24 and Natasha McDonald, College of Haringey Enfield and North East London was named VQ Learner of the Year over 25. All winners showed that they embody vocational achievement and thoroughly deserved to be recognised.

The Industry Insider Prize, a new prize for 2010, rewards

a person who has shown exceptional talent in the arts and entertainment sector with a once in a lifetime work experience opportunity and a one on one mentoring session with Arlene. This year's Industry Insider Prize winner was Delroy Ogiste from the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London.

Thanks to all those that took

part in VQ Day 2010 and we look forward to celebrating VQ Day 2011 and continuing to reward all of those people that have achieved vocational success.

For more information visit [www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk) or to become involved in VQ Day 2011, visit [www.vqday.org.uk](http://www.vqday.org.uk) or email [vqday@bbpr.com](mailto:vqday@bbpr.com)

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