

From: Chris Parsons <landworks@dartington.org>
Sent: 16 September 2013 16:55
To: Clare Blatchford-Hanna
Subject: DLW Update 18



Dartington

DLW Update 18



Hello

Our launch on Friday went very well, a really great turn out and the promised wet weather arrived too late to bother us. Thank you so much to everyone involved.

The speeches from Sarah Wollaston MP, Erwin James (Author and Guardian columnist) and one of our trainees from Channings Wood gave us all a clear reminder of the difficulties in trying to change your life but equally offered hope and emphasised the important work that LandWorks is doing to help people back into community and employment.

I felt it was a great success that people wanted to engage with the guys and just as importantly they themselves really wanted to talk and felt confident enough to do so. Two months ago this just would not have happened. In this short time their confidence, self worth and belief in themselves has grown... they really wanted to show you what they had created, that they could take part and I think everyone saw how hard they were trying.

So that's all great, Quarry Field is a lovely safe haven but it's not quite the real world is it... It is absolutely a place to help you find your way into life, to feel that you are okay, you're not worthless and you can be accepted for who you are by people who frankly a few months ago might as well have lived on a different planet.

As I say all great... But what happens next? What happens when they fall over? How will they get a job?

I am not attempting to turn out a constant stream of gardeners, nor I am pretending that our trainees will be so advantaged as to just walk into a top job.... but LandWorks is able to help people who may never have worked before, get up to speed, to calm down and just think things through, to understand the importance of being a team player, taking responsibility, to know what hard graft feels like, that it's okay and actually feels good.... Gaining employability skills.

Next month we are having our first employers' breakfast - we have been approached by quite a number of businesses who want to engage with the project. It will be a chance for them to see what is happening, meet the guys and for us a chance to understand their needs as employers.

The world beyond LandWorks will of course be difficult... but if we can reduce the belief that society hates you and help you to believe in yourself, it is possible that you can deal with the difficulties ahead.

Chris

Dartington LandWorks
The Granary
Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EE
01803 847049

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to cblatchford-hanna@recoverycareerservices.org.uk by landworks@dartington.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

The Dartington Hall Trust | The Elmhirst Centre | Dartington Hall | Totnes | Devon | TQ9 6EL | United Kingdom