

Mother from Cardigan makes career change thanks to Onsite Hub

An aspiring joiner, Willow Kehily, has taken her first steps towards a rewarding new career in the construction industry thanks to an Onsite Hub placement with Wynne Construction at its Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi site.

The mother-of-one from Cardigan, Ceredigion, completed her 10-day placement with the Bodelwyddan-based construction firm as it continues its expansion of the Cardigan secondary school – which conveniently for Willow, is just a 10-minute walk from her home.

Following redundancy from her job in retail, Willow decided to make a career change by undertaking the level 1 Carpentry and Joinery diploma at Coleg Ceredigion's Cardigan Campus, which is where she also learned about the Onsite Hub placement scheme.

Willow had previously completed a degree in psychology but decided to go back into education and re-skill in a completely new direction, following her interest in joinery and carpentry.

Willow Kehily, Onsite Hub trainee, explained:

"I'm pursuing a career in joinery as I want a role with increased security, stability, and one which will allow me to develop a skillset to support myself and my son long-term.

"My son is at the age where he doesn't think twice about my occupation. It's important to me that he continues to see his mum in a strong role and represented in a particularly male-dominated industry."

Though Willow had spent long hours in the classroom learning the theory of her chosen trade, her Onsite Hub placement was her first opportunity to put it into practice in a genuine work setting.

The experience has left her positive that she has made the right choice. As she explained: "Working on the school has been a major milestone in my career, as it is my first go at the job and after only a few days on the site, I was 100 percent sold on the career path."

"In college you learn the basics, which are obviously fundamental, but seeing how the skills developed in the classroom play out practically and getting a taste for life on site has been brilliant alongside the team at Wynne.

"Days might be fast paced, but I was never made to feel like my questions were too time consuming, and the team really took the time to offer guidance at every step. Nothing was ever too much trouble for anyone at Wynne."

Willow is one of many Onsite Construction Hub placements which have been facilitated by Wynne Construction across its sites. Looking forward, the



company's Wynne Futures Foundation aims to provide more than 100 work experience placements and 250 apprenticeships by 2025 – an aim we applaud, here at Cyfle.

Alison Hourihane, Social Value Manager, Wynne Construction, said:

"Encouraging onsite experience at an early career stage and making it more readily available can inspire underrepresented groups to pursue a career in the industry and safeguard the construction sector for years to come.

"Willow is a brilliant example of how providing these opportunities may help those interested in construction re-skill and find out what they truly enjoy, which has the added benefit of boosting employment locally and widening the pool of talent we work with."

Anthony Rees, our Regional Manager, added:

"People in the early stages of their training rarely get this kind of work experience before taking on an apprenticeship, so managing this scheme has allowed more young people to develop essential skills, which is ultimately what we are here for.

"As well as satellite centres in colleges, we try to reach all corners of the community by working closely with people in social housing and those who are unemployed to help them kick-start a career in the industry.

"It's a win-win situation; people in the local area don't have to look far for valuable experience, and contractors building in the region can access nearby talent for its supply chain."

Here at Cyfle, we extend our thanks to Wynne Construction for its ongoing support of the Onsite Hub scheme and wish Willow every success in her newly chosen career.

The onsite hub scheme is funded by the Construction Industry Training Board's (CITB) Onsite Experience Commission, with delivery taking place across the five local authority areas within the region: Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

The programme is coordinated by us, here at Cyfle Building Skills, and offers onsite construction experience, reskilling and associated training opportunities to individuals. A mentoring programme is also included, designed to help individuals take the next step into a career in construction, and ensure they gain the maximum benefit from the onsite experience.

The programme is open to individuals of any age (over 16 years) considering a career in construction either as a first job or by retraining from a different profession. It seeks to promote social mobility and provide opportunities to those under-represented within the industry, as well as those not currently in education, employment or training (NEET).



"To educate, inspire and support people to develop careers in the construction sector"

Training Manager, Gemma Mineur, finalist in Swansea Bay Business Awards 2022

We are extremely proud and delighted that our Training Manager, Gemma Mineur, was named as one of the finalists at this year's Swansea Bay Business Awards.

The awards cover the Swansea Bay City Region, incorporating the local authority areas of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and celebrate the achievements of the talented and successful individuals, companies and entrepreneurs that work across the region.

The awards feature 11 individual categories with two overall awards given in addition for overall Company of the Year and a Judges' Choice Award for a firm that has demonstrated exceptional growth.

The winners were revealed at a prestigious awards dinner event at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea on September 15.

Gemma was one of three talented and hard-working finalists in the Women in Construction category. As a

finalist, Gemma was recognised as an outstanding woman in the Swansea Bay City Region's construction sector. The judges were looking not only for excellence in leadership and management, but also an exemplar and champion for encouraging more women to pursue a career in what has been perceived as a male dominated industry. The award was sponsored by Pennant Homes, and the winner on the night was Charlotte Hale of SO Modular – a company that has hosted several Onsite Hub placements.

Gemma was shortlisted primarily for running the Swansea Bay Construction Support Group, a collaboration of diverse contractors committed to providing cost-effective training and development opportunities. Every year, Gemma organises the awards evening to celebrate the achievements of apprentices in the industry and showcase the benefits of a career in the sector. This year, her event not only recognised hard work, but also raised more than £2,000 for local charity, Hands Up for Downs.



We wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Gemma for being shortlisted at this year's awards.

Gemma Mineur, Training Manager and Finalist at the Swansea Bay Business Awards, said:

"Being shortlisted was a fantastic personal honour for me, and a

recognition of the hard work put in by everyone involved in the training and the SBCSG awards night. Those shortlisted in all of the categories are amazing, particularly in the Women in Construction category, and I feel very proud to be named amongst them as a fellow finalist. I would like to give them all my sincerest congratulations."

Cricket match and family fun day to support Jac Lewis Foundation

Cricketers, businesses, sports clubs and families from across the region came together at Ammanford Cricket Club for a charity match and fun day to raise awareness and funds for our charity, The Jac Lewis Foundation.

The fundraiser, organised by Morganstone and Westacres in conjunction with Ammanford Cricket Club, raised an impressive £5,000 to help the charity continue to provide essential mental health and wellbeing support to the people of Ammanford.

The charity cricket match was a fitting tribute to the young man in whose name the foundation was formed – the popular Ammanford sportsman, Jac Lewis, whose struggle with mental health made a huge impact on his community and everyone who knew him.

To honour Jac, the foundation was founded with the aims of providing mental health and wellbeing support to the local community through a range of services such as counselling, bereavement support, wellbeing courses and workshops, telephone services and community mental health first aid training.

The foundation aims to ensure that anybody in Ammanford suffering with their mental health has a professional service to help them, and ultimately help to prevent suicide.

The fundraising event was a huge success drawing large crowds over the course of the day and into the evening, with substantial donations being made by business and the local community.

In addition to the main feature of the day – the cricket match between Ammanford CC and Morganstone – the fundraiser also included: a fun

fair; face painting; children's games; a barbecue; stalls; a learn to draw cartoon club with artist Scott Artus; and a PureFootball Swansea penalty shootout, featuring special guests.

Julie Powell, Jac Lewis Foundation, said: "It was a fantastic day, brilliantly supported by the community. Big thanks to Morganstone for supporting the charity."

Tonia Morgan, Director at Westacres and co-organiser of the charity event, said:

"Our charity day was amazing! It was absolutely wonderful to see the beautiful park in Ammanford host such a fantastic event. Families turned up in large numbers, and all of them had great fun with the rides, games, sweets, hot dogs and beverage stalls.

"Also, the cricket was awesome, as Morganstone prevailed as the victorious team. Most importantly, thousands of pounds were raised



for the Jac Lewis foundation, which does such important work within the community of Ammanford to help anyone suffering with mental health difficulties. So, all in all, it was a huge success. We extend our thanks to everyone who took part in the event and came along and donated to the charity on the day."

For more information on the Jac Lewis Foundation and to book onto training days please call 07368828515 or email jaclewisfoundation@gmail.com

Special thanks to all our Partners:



CYFLE SHARED APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Inspirational John Weaver apprentice, Kim Smitham, wins Best Construction Apprentice at SBCSG Awards

Kim Smitham began her career in construction when she joined John Weaver Contractors in 2019 as an NVQ level 2 apprentice carpenter, following completion of a level 1 course at Gower College. The talented and dedicated apprentice has now gone on to be named the Best Construction Apprentice at the Swansea Bay Construction Support Group Awards 2022 in category.

The prestigious awards ceremony took place in July at the Village Hotel, Swansea, to support and recognise the achievements of new entrants, apprentices and future talent within the construction industry in the South Wales region.

The event saw 11 apprentices recognised for their outstanding work, including a number who have come through placements arranged with our Shared Apprenticeship Scheme, and via the Onsite Hub here at Cyfle Building Skills. There were 13 awards given in total on the night, one for each of the 11 nominations, plus two overall winners – the award for Best Technical Apprentice, and the award for Best Construction Apprentice which went to Kim.

Kim's passion was evident to the team at John Weaver Contractors from day one, when she was prepared to volunteer as a labourer at its Hafod Copperworks site as a way of gaining experience and getting a foot on the ladder in the construction industry. This obvious desire to work and genuine interest in construction impressed the John Weaver board of directors so much that they quickly offered her an apprenticeship with them.

This was a big change in career direction for Kim, having previously worked within the caring and retail sectors. As a mother of two young boys and the primary breadwinner, making such a profound change in career – with all the uncertainties which go along with it – was not a decision to be taken lightly. However, her ambition drove her to take the opportunity and, according to her employers, she has excelled in all aspects of her work.

As well as winning the recent award at this year's SBCSG awards night, Kim has also been named as Gower College Student of the Year on two successive occasions and was the John Weaver's Apprentice winner in 2021, due to her dedication, desire to learn, can do



attitude and fantastic feedback from all her site managers, mentors and college tutors.

Kim's tutor, Dai John, explained: "Kim is keen to learn and picks things up fast. She is a forward thinker who needs little supervision."

Gareth Morgans, Kim's current Site Manager, added: "Kim is a dream to work with, thinks on her feet, and is 100 percent committed to her work each day. Her time keeping, attendance and attitude is one to commend. It is a real pleasure having her on our team and on

site. Her work is always of high quality."

Kim is an excellent role model and inspiration to all those considering moving careers into the construction sector through the apprentice route. She is a caring, hardworking, energetic and committed individual who has taken the chance to follow a dream and is fully committed to all aspects of her work.

We wish Kim the very best for the future and are sure that she will continue to make a success of her chosen career.

Low Carbon Awareness pilot course

We are delighted to have run a two-day Low Carbon Awareness pilot course. The course covered four modules which included: an introduction to low carbon/net zero; retrofitting of existing buildings to lower carbon emissions; modern methods of construction; and renewable energy solutions.

The course covered each of the topics in depth, with the aim of equipping participants with the knowledge and understanding required to implement a net zero approach to their future work within the construction industry.

Module one: What is low carbon/net zero?

This module gave an overview of what carbon is, how it is produced, and how its emission leads to global warming – also known as the greenhouse effect. It covered the scale and scope of the current climate emergency, and why the drive to net zero is so important, particularly within the construction industry. It also covered how the industry is tackling carbon reduction, by reducing its carbon footprint, and how everyone working within the industry can contribute towards carbon reduction and the ultimate aim of net zero.



Module two: Retrofit

Within this module, the course covered understanding what retrofit is, why it is important to reducing carbon, and where and how to identify opportunities to retrofit existing buildings.

In addition, it looked at what the challenges and benefits are – with a particular eye on developments happening in Wales.

Module three: Modern methods of construction

This module covered the shortcomings of the historically high-carbon construction industry and why change is desperately needed. It explained what is meant by frequently used (though often misunderstood) terms such as Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), Offsite Construction, and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC).

It also explored the new approaches, principles and technologies which are being implemented within the industry to tackle carbon emissions.

Module four: Renewables

The final module delved into renewable energy solutions. It explained what renewable energy is, its sources and technologies, and why construction professionals need to understand its importance and keep abreast of the latest innovations.

The module discussed what the future might look like in a sustainable world, and how the national grid will be affected and improved – covering the advantages and disadvantages of fossil fuels, renewable energy sources and nuclear power.

At the end of the course, its participants should feel equipped to take the knowledge gained and implement it within the businesses they work. We hope they will feel able to positively contribute to a greener more sustainable future for the construction industry and the planet as a whole.

The project was funded by the UK Renewable Fund.

To find out more about the course and how to get a future place, call 01554 748181

Special thanks to all our contractors

Shared Apprenticeship Scheme companies:

230 Electrical	Coastal Housing	Hughes Decorators Ltd	M Hiorns Building Contractor	R T Contractors Ltd	Thermal Earth
A G Leer	D J Electrical	Ian Thomas Construction	Maggie Construction	R T Electrical	Thorne Electrical
Andrew Scott Ltd	Darlow Lloyd Construction	Services	Martin Mathias	RDM Electrical Services	Top Frame
Apex Plastering and Building	David Hughes	Illuminate	Martin Price Plastering	Red Building Services	Towy Electrical
Apollo Renewables Ltd	DD Mechanical Ltd	IWEC	Merge Timber Framing	Restorahome	Tree & Sons
Aspen Carpentry	DJW Carpentry and Joinery	J P Building and Roofing	Mike Martyn	Rhydwyn Davies	TRJ Ltd
ASW Property Services	DPF Electrical	Contractors	Mike Voyle	RMD Carpentry	Truecoat Finish
Ateb Group	Dylan Davies Electrical	J P Construction	Morgan Sindall	Rob Owen Building	Tycroes Group Ltd
AW Building & Plastering	E L L Hughes & Sons Ltd	J&E Woodworks	Morganstone	Contractor	Vanguard Roofing
Banfield Carpentry	Eazy Heat	James Building & Carpentry	P C Jenkins Ltd	Rosecastle Joinery	Vaughan Construction
Barry Evans	Edmunds Webster Ltd	John Harries Carpentry and	Paul Sinnott Carpentry	RPJ Building Ltd	W B Griffiths & Son Limited
Bluestone Builders	Enzo's Homes	Joinery	Pembrokeshire County	S E Engineering	W4K Construction Limited
Bullock Bros	Evans Electrical Installations	Jones and Maher	Council	Sevenoaks	Wayne Williams Electrical
C J Construction	Gavin Electrical Engineering	Jones Brothers	Penfro Construction	Sharp Plumbing and Heating	Wernick
C J Electrical Installations	George Brothers	Karn Construction	Phase 3 Electrical	Shoreline Interiors	Westward Energy Services
C K Roofing	Geraint Williams	Kier	Phil Havard Plastering	Sion Williams Electrical	Whiterock Property Care
Carl Griffiths	Glamorgan Brickwork	KSB Projects Ltd	Phil Pugh Builders	Solid Fuel Services	Willmott Dixon
Carl Llewellyn	GT Thomas	L J M Carpentry	Phoenix Developments	Sterling	WJG Evans
Celtic MEP	Hale Construction	Lewis Construction	(Wales) Ltd	Steven Rees Carpentry	Wyn Davies Builders
CMB Engineering	Hartwell Construction	Lloyd & Gravell	Premier Forecourts &	Strasdin Joinery Ltd	Wynne Construction
CMP Carpentry	Heatshine Limited	Lloyds Roofing & Home	Construction	TAD (Builders) Ltd	
		Improvements	R & M Williams		

South West Wales Onsite Hub work experience companies:

A J Partitions	CBS Mid Wales Ltd	Emys Davies A1 Fab	Joinery	Morgan Sindall	Salem Construction
A Room at the top	Cellan Harries Plastering	Enzo's Homes	John Pasovantich Builders	Morganstone	Scott Jones Building
A1 Construction	Celtic Green Ltd	Evabuild	John Walker Carpentry &	N Morgans and Son Ltd	Sean Bumster Carpentry
Adref Construction	CGL Services	F&G	Building	Oakwood Furniture Ltd	Shine Builders
Adrian Shearan	Facility Services Group	Chris Ward	John Weaver	OC Carpentry & Building	Shoreline Interiors
Advanced Carpentry	CJ Construction	Fertile Ground Landscaping	Jonathan Bassett Builders	Oliver Coe Stone	Simon Harris and Son Llanelli
Solutions	CJR Plastering	Ltd	Jonathon Gerrard Builders	Owain Davies Ltd	Simon Martin
Advanced Fire Technologies	Classic Conservatories	Footo Construction	Jones and Maher	Owen Foote	South Wales Brickwork
AJ Wall Tile	Windows & Doors	Fresh Turf Landscaping Ltd	Jones Brothers	P Elkins Construction	Spartan Scaffolding
Aled Jenkins	Clockwork	FSG	Joyner Group	Pembroke Walls	SS Bricklaying
Alpha Building Group	Clydach Construction	Garden Room Wales	JP Construction	Pembs CC	Steven Lewis Builders
Andrew Edwards Building	CMJ Building Contractors Ltd	Gareth Jones Carpentry	JW Windows	Pembs County Council	Strasdin Joinery
Andrew Keast	CMP Carpentry	Gavin Jeffries Builders	K Edwards Building	Pepe Simoncini	Synco Construction
Andrew Pryce	Colin Hudson Services	George Builders	Contractors	Peredar James Carpentry	T & T Contractors
Andrew Scott Ltd	Copefield Construction	Glamorgan Brickwork	K G Evans Bricklaying	and Building	TAD (Builders) Ltd
Andrews & Kent Carpenters	Core Carpentry	Gower bathrooms	K&M Building Solution	Persimmon Homes	Tai Tarian
AP Building & Carpentry	Corey Jones Scaffold	Gower Plastering Service	KAM Construction	Phil Owen Plastering Services	Teilo Scaffolding
ASW Property Services	CR Civil Engineering	Green Tree Company	Karn Construction	Phoenix Building Services	TJH Installations
Ateb Group	Craftsman Flooring	Greens Carpentry	Keith Williams Roofing and	Plan A	Total Construction Services
AW Building & Plastering	Cre8 Developments	Greens Carpentry & Building	Building	Proseal Roofing	Towy Projects
AWT Contract Services	Crynant Home	Svcs Ltd	KG Building & Carpentry	R & M Williams	Tree & Sons
BAM	Improvements	H J Building Solutions	Kier	R D Richards	Tremendous Construction
Bancs Carpentry and Build	CTP Carpentry	Hackett Carpentry &	Killay Decorating Services	R T Contractors Ltd	TRJ Ltd
Bardic Construction	Cymru Campers	Construction	KPJ Carpentry and Building	R W Construction	Truecoat Finish
Bassett & McGregor	D & P Windows	Hale Construction	KRJ Carpentry	R. D. Jones Bricklaying	Tycroes Group Ltd
BE & DH Builders	D B Brickwork	Hargan Builders	Kyle Davies Building	R.James Builder	V&C Ltd
Beguiling Brickwork	D C Carpentry	Harries Builders	L T Carpentry	RBD Decorating	V2C Bridgend
Bespoke Solid Surface	D E H Flatroofing Specialist	Hartlands Builders	LDS Building and Electrical	RBE Construction	Valleys To Coast
Worktops and Counters Ltd	D M Carpentry	Hayhurst Property	Lee Evans Ltd	Red Builders	Vanguard Roofing
Beynon Brickwork	D&K Carpentry	Heatshine	Lewis & Son	Rees & Beynon	Vaughan Construction
BGL Interiors	Daniel Williams General	Hedgerows Landscaping	Lewis Construction	Remas Carpentry	W D Carpentry
Black Mountain Builders	Builders	House to Home Painting	LGS Property Services	Contractors Ltd	W P Construction
Blue Kite Building	David Mayes Builder	Ideal Carpentry	Lifestyle Building Solutions	Renewable Heating Wales	W&M Thatchell
Bouygues	Davies and Morgan	Intergreen Construction	Ltd	Rhys Williams Builders	WA Bowler Ltd
BPS Roofing	Davies Building Solutions	J & E Woodworks	LJV Construction Ltd	Richard Bradley Styles	Waterstone Ltd
Broadstone Builders	DB Brickwork	J D Jenkins	Llewellyn Builders	Richard Jones	Watts Brickwork
Buckingham Group	Denmore Homes	J F Cahill Ltd	Lloyd & Gravell	Riverside	Wayne Jones
Build Wales	Dex Renovations	J Howells Plastering Services	Lloyds Roofing Various	RJC Brickwork	West Wales Ground
Buildshine	DG Joinery Installations Ltd	J P Construction	Houses	RJR Building Contractors	Contractors
C & A Civil Construction	Dinefwr Homes	J S Plastering	Luke O'Sullivan Carpentry	RNF Construction	West Wales Groundworks
C J Construction	Dinefwr Tools	J Taylor Home and Interiors	Lyndon and Sons Plastering	Roberts Building Consultants	White Rock Decorators
C M Building Construction	DM Avo Building Contractor	Jacob Quinn	M G Construction	Rogers Bricklaying	Willow Joinery
Carl Griffiths Building and	Dorian Howells & Sons	James Bros Plumbing and	Martin Lever	Rosecastle Joinery	WJG Evans Builders
Groundwork	Down to Earth	Property Renovations	Martin Price Builders	Ross Howells Plastering	Wright & Phillips
Carl Hendy	DPM Construction	Jaxx Bay	Mike Hatton Building	RPD Construction	Wright Way Construction
Carl Llewellyn Building	Dylan Ridley	Jeff Lewis Construction	contractor various sites	Ryan Evans Builders	Writeways Contractor
Contractor	Edmunds and Webster	Jeffrey Contractors	Mike James Builders	Ryan Hughes	Wyn Jones
Carl's Carpentry	Edward McGinly	JEHU	Mike Martyn Roofing	S Evans	Wynne Construction
Carms CC	Eifion Williams Builder	Jimmy Woodhall Builders	Contractors	S T Morris	
Caron Group	Elijah Homes	JM Windows	Modern Edge Carpentry	S.McDonnell Builders	
Castle Scaffolding	ELL Hughes Builders	John Harries Carpentry and	Morgan & Mutch		

For more information on the Cyfle Shared Apprentice Scheme, contact us at:
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