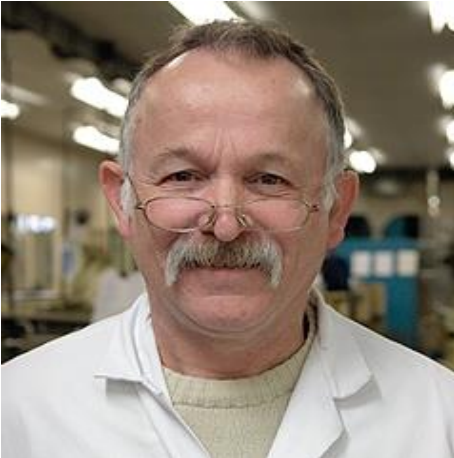


# GET IN THE KNOW!

Issue 2 – 20 November 2013



## A Tribute to Alan Gribble



As many of you already know, we sadly said goodbye to a valued member of our Team last week, Alan Gribble and we would like to start this newsletter with a tribute to this remarkable man!

Alan was battling with cancer from the day he joined us but unless he told you, you would never have known as he went about his work without a care in the world (well that's how it appeared anyway). His only care was the young people he was teaching, who he cared so much about, it stood out by a mile.

His enthusiasm and passion for engineering was inspiring to everyone around him, learners, employees and customers alike. Alan was not only a mentor and a coach to our young people but for a number of our own employees as well. Alan's technical knowledge was second to none, but what he also had was an ability to really connect intellectually and emotionally with all the young people in our care. He taught not only in the centre, but on countless occasions he would continue to teach after working hours and even invited learners to his own workshop on evenings and weekends. He was the first to volunteer to take part in new projects and programmes and the first to represent us at any external events and more often than not using his own equipment and resources to display engineering in the most exciting light.

If you wanted to learn, Alan would challenge you to do better and if you didn't want to learn he would challenge you to understand why, and if you even dared to say it was boring - he would most definitely prove you wrong. Alan brought style and flare to his delivery by bringing in his champions from Robot wars and proudly talking about his successes to anyone who was willing to listen. Engineering was not just his job, it was his life - he living to work rather than working to live. Even in his final days, some people wondered why he was still coming into the centre, but for most of us it was obvious why - this wasn't a job, this was a hobby, and the fact that he was being paid to live a dream was an added bonus - no wonder he was always smiling!

But seriously, despite all his worries and despite his continual pain, he lived life to the full and enjoyed every single moment of it - something that I think many of us would struggle to do in the same set of circumstances. So today is not a day for sadness, but a day for us to all pledge to ensure that his memory lives on. It's been an honour and a pleasure to have you as part of our team - you may be gone Alan, but you will never be forgotten.

## Parking for Learners

We are pleased to say that in the main the parking facility has been received well and used as directed, however, there are a few learners that have already fallen behind with payments despite several warnings. The individuals concerned will receive formal letters advising them of pending disciplinary action should payments not be up to date by Friday 22 November. You will be notified directly if this applies to any of your learners.

For further information please contact **Kelly White** ([k.white@get-trained.org](mailto:k.white@get-trained.org)) or **Joe Webster** ([j.webster@get-trained.org](mailto:j.webster@get-trained.org))

## Sustainable Travel Event at GET

On Friday 4th November GET hosted a sustainable travel event in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council and Atkins. The event consisted of the following activities:



**Eco-drive simulator** - this device scores individuals on how eco-efficient their driving skills are with a driving mentor on hand to provide handy hints and tips.

**Smoothie Bike** - blend your own delicious smoothie with nothing but pedal power !!!



**Dr Bike** - bring along your bike for a **free** MOT and learn more about how to maintain your bike yourself.

There were also people on hand to talk about personalised travel planning with information about all the local cycle routes, public pathways and bus timetables.

The event was free to host and organised by Gloucestershire County Council - they also provide the organisation with information regarding grants available to support services or facilities at your site. If your organisation is based in Cheltenham or Gloucester and would like more information about one of these events please contact **Kelly White** ([k.white@get-trained.org](mailto:k.white@get-trained.org))

### Earn rewards for using more sustainable modes of travel

Do you travel via a sustainable mode of transport (such as car sharing, cycling or catching the bus) or want to try something different? You can now be rewarded for doing so, with the Thinktravel rewards website!

As part of a Department for Transport funded initiative, you can now earn discounts on local and national retailers, including cycle repair, fashion, coffee, meals and much more- as well as win prizes.

The website (which is free to use) involves logging your sustainable commutes. You can even do this with the Stravel app if you have a smart phone. Once a journey is logged, you earn points, which can be exchanged for rewards. The more points you have, the more rewards you earn!

Sample the website and sign up at:

<https://bethestart.stravelrewards.com/login>

Start logging your journeys now to earn great prizes and discounts!

### Learner Suspensions

A polite reminder to all employers that should any of your apprentices be absent from work for longer than 2 weeks we need to be informed so that funding can be suspended. This will not result in any loss of funding as any suspension payments will be paid at the end of the programme or the programme will be extended to compensate for the break in learning. Can you please ensure that any absences of this nature in future are reported immediately to **Jess Jones** ([j.jones@get-trained.org](mailto:j.jones@get-trained.org))

### Charitable donations

We would like to remind all our employers that Gloucestershire Engineering Training is a Registered Charity and gratefully welcomes any donations of old equipment, tools or materials from our employers. A large proportion of our cash reserves were invested in the new fantastic training facility but we still have a substantial amount of old machinery and tooling in the centre. If there is ever anything that your organisation is planning to dispose of, can we please make a plea that you consider a donation to GET before placing it in the skip or scrap bin. Thank you to all those of you who have already donated items this year, it's very much appreciated and desperately needed - remember, anything you donate to GET will be for the benefit of your own and other apprentices. If you would like to donate please contact Nicky Shaw ([n.shaw@get-trained.org](mailto:n.shaw@get-trained.org))

### Maths and Science Bridging Courses

The launch of our HNC programme in September has highlighted a number of young people/apprentices who are not quite ready to progress to that level of learning without some additional tuition in Maths and Science. We have been asked by several employers to investigate the delivery of a bridging course to enable learners to raise their knowledge and skills and be in a better position to apply in the next intake (September 2015). Our proposal is to deliver a programme from January to July of 2014 which would consist of one lesson per week (2 hours) at our site on a Friday morning (exact timings to be confirmed) at a cost of £325.00. All we ask at this stage is for a register of interest so that we can determine the level of demand before making any final commitments. Please notify **Allan Whittington** ([a.whittington@get-trained.org](mailto:a.whittington@get-trained.org)) of your interest and possible numbers by no later than **Friday 6th December** so that we can make a decision and confirm the outcome before we break for Christmas.

## Employee Updates

Since our last newsletter there has been one new appointment at GET. Dayo Sokoya has joined our team as an Electronic Instructor to support the growing number of Electrical/Electronic and Dual Skill apprentices starting on programme.

There has also been one departure and one further pending departure. Bill Morgan (Mechanical Training Instructor) left our employment on Friday 15 November to undertake an exciting project with Bath College, helping them develop a new centre for Engineering. The college will be investing substantially in their engineering provision and Bill will be instrumental in implementing the systems and structures to support this venture.

We have also recently received a resignation from Nick Long (Workshop Team Leader), who will be leaving GET on Friday 13 December. Nick too will be getting involved in a similar project to Bill, however not with Bath College but with Avon Vale Training (part of Wiltshire College). Wiltshire College already have a small engineering centre but are in the process of expanding the centre and enhancing their provision. Nick will be taking up the post of Engineering Quality Assurance.

We are already in the process of looking for a replacement for Bill and the SMT are due to meet shortly to investigate a way forward with regards to Nick's replacement.

We would like to thank both Bill and Nick for their contributions during their time at GET and wish them both the best of luck in their new roles.

## Social Media

We are pleased to announce that GET is now fully embracing the world of social media with both a twitter and Facebook account. Followers on Twitter and Friends on Facebook are gradually increasing but we would like to see more activity on both accounts as moving forward we will use both these methods of media to communicate with our learners and employers.



**facebook/gloucestershireengineeringtraining**

**@glosengtraining**

## Winning ways

GET's winning run continues. Earlier this year we were awarded Training Provider of the Year at the Gloucestershire Media Apprenticeship Awards and our own Chief Executive, Linsey Temple was awarded Young Business Person of the Year last month at the prestigious Gloucester Business Awards.

## Got anything you want to share with our learners and employers?

If you have any news or information which you would like to circulate to our employers and apprentices within our newsletters please contact Kelly White ([k.white@get-trained.org](mailto:k.white@get-trained.org))