

Trading Places January 2016

Following the successful launch of Trading Places in December we are pleased to report an increase in the number of people getting involved. Trading Places is about FST creating sustainable work and employment opportunities for people unable to manage mainstream opportunities. We have invited senior executives to work alongside our workforce as colleagues so that they go back to their companies excited at the prospect of doing something sustainable. Commercial work provides more control over our future. It also helps us provide employment opportunities and on the job training for people who have been excluded from the mainstream job market due to mental health or other disadvantages.



**Cathryn Moses Head of Public Affairs
Small Business Saturday UK**

"I had a fantastic morning working in the kitchen at Abbevilles and was honoured to work alongside Sean, Luigi and the rest of the team. Abbevilles is an amazing example of impeccable organisation, team work and skill and I'm looking forward to seeing 'Trading Places' continue growing." - Cathryn Moses Head of Public Affairs Small Business Saturday UK



**Jack Hopkins
Cabinet Member for Jobs & Growth Lambeth**

"I had a really good day with FST at the West Norwood garage doing my Trading Places 'stint'. The workforce are a really vibrant bunch who relish the challenges facing them in the garage. Creating sustainable training and job opportunities for people excluded from other opportunities is an essential part of Lambeth Council's plans for the future. SMaRT stands for "Socially Minded and Responsible Trading". My experience today confirms that FST 'does what it says it does on the tin'. Keep up the good work!!" Jack Hopkins Cabinet Member for Jobs & Growth Lambeth



**Mike Freeman Programme Manager
ARC BITC**

"I really welcomed and enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside the great team in the kitchen at First Step Trust's Abbevilles Restaurant. Learning how to make pizza was an experience I won't forget - not so much that my pizzas turned out so good, but working alongside the workforce and staff was enlightening and good fun. I immediately got a sense of their abilities being put to good use and how FST provide worthwhile training and access to working life. Without FST, so many deserving and keen individuals would be denied the achievements and pride the workforce enjoys. My company has supported FST for many years and my day in the kitchen was a reminder of just how much good is being done. It will reinforce our efforts to do what we can to help such a worthy charity." Ray Calcutt, Managing Director, Boston Garage Equipment



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Steve Nash CEO of The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI)

"It was my privilege and delight to spend time with SMaRT Garage Services as part of their Trading Places initiative and to offer support for the outstanding work that the team do. The IMI and First Step Trust have worked in partnership for some time and I cannot speak highly enough of their approach to getting individuals back into the workplace and feeling valued once again in the wider community. Their results speak for themselves." - Steve Nash CEO of The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI)



Stuart James Director of The Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI)

"I was pleased to raise awareness of the good charitable work the SMaRT Garage Services does to make a positive difference to the lives of people who have experienced difficult times. Having not been on the tools for many years the experience brought back memories of why I went into the motor industry in the first place. The challenge of dismantling something that I had never taken apart before, working out how it works and then to establish why it is not working properly, there really is no better buzz." - Stuart James Director of The Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI)



John McGirr Commissioning Officer Royal Borough of Greenwich



Peter Holbrook CEO of Social Enterprise UK

"Whenever I need a dose of inspiration First Step Trust is where I come. It's just a perfect example of social enterprise at its best. It's magic." - Peter Holbrook CEO of Social Enterprise UK



Cllr Denise Hyland Council Leader Royal Borough of Greenwich

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at SMaRT garages working alongside some of the people they support. I was really impressed by the tenacity and hard work of the people I was with and their willingness to involve me as a colleague. I know from many years of being a Councillor that people with mental health issues and other disadvantages struggle to get the chance to get back into employment. FST has been in Greenwich for almost 30 years. Their SMaRT Garage Services are pioneering new ways of helping people gain the confidence and skills to look for work. I would highly recommend that anyone looking for a good quality garage head over to SMaRT Garage Services in Woolwich and they particularly want to encourage firms which need their fleet MOT tested and serviced to use their garage." Cllr Denise Hyland Council Leader of Royal Borough of Greenwich



Philip Breslin Substance Misuse Commissioning Manager Royal Borough of Greenwich



Rachel Hubbard CEO of Deaf Umbrella

"What a wonderful experience! It took me back to the days when my father worked in his garage! SMaRT garages fight for the right to be treated with dignity and the right to be educated. It's overalls and dressed like work; but really it's a massive opportunity!" Rachel Hubbard CEO of Deaf Umbrella



Sean Kelleher Business Connector BITC



Hannah Stafford Assistant Manager Buzzacott Chartered Accountants



Maureen Thone Assistant Commissioning Manager Finance Royal Borough of Greenwich



Nicholas Campbell-Watts Director of Mental Health CERTITUDE



Neil Airey Prison Commissioner Royal Borough of Greenwich

"I had a great time working alongside the team at Abbeilles. Everyone I spoke to had a personal story about why they were so passionate about working there. It was so obvious how much every person's contribution is valued by the team which does such a lot for everyone's self-esteem! To do all that in a commercial setting producing amazing locally sourced food...is pretty special! Nicholas Campbell-Watts Director of Mental Health CERTITUDE



Chris Graham Business Development Director of Wates Living Space

"I just wanted to thank you for inviting me to participate in the Trading Places programme. Apart from being great fun and learning a new skill (grinding valves), it was fantastically enlightening to talk to people working at SMaRT Garages. I now have a much greater understanding of the challenges of people faced by addictions of all kinds, being an ex-offender or struggling with mental health and the social stigma that they confront every day. Bob is a truly inspirational character. His non-judgemental, caring and friendly approach commanded immense respect from all that worked with him. He personifies the amazing difference that you make every day to the lives of the people that you work with. It was a great pleasure and a privilege to spend the day with you. I wish you every success with this project and the fantastic work of the Trust." Chris Graham Business Development Director of Wates Living Space