

Bosavern Training & Work Experience Project

This project is funded by the EU and Cornwall Council.

Series 1 (Jan-Apr 2021) 6 participants enrolled during lockdown Jan 2021 (target: 9). One young Spanish man who wasn't eligible to join the project, became a WWOOFer instead, living in our farmhouse and volunteering for over 6 months. One experienced chef secured work in St Ives quite early in the course and another man moved up country and found work before the course had even started. These three are not officially recognised as project results.

Activities: Weekly horticulture and cookery, construction (built a polytunnel, raised beds and erected two lines of fencing in the market garden following two specialist fencing workshops from Chris Lutey), visit to Duchy College and potential employers; NAWT, Heather Lane and Kehelland Trust.

Progression Narratives: One young lady already had a care work background and an interest in conservation. With help from the project she secured paid work at the Kehelland Trust and later moved house to be nearer. She is quoted as saying '*I look forward to going to work every single day*'.

A recent graphics college leaver did shifts in our shop and applied for lots of seasonal work. She was successful in securing her first paid job throughout the Summer in the shop at The Land's End Visitor Attraction, she said '*Its such a relief!*'.

A young man with bee-keeping experience and ambitions to run his own permaculture project, went on to study Level 2 Practical Horticulture course at Duchy College.

A school leaver and dog-lover had no prior qualifications but after completing the project, secured a volunteering placement at the National Animal Welfare Trust in Hayle which was his dream next step.

One lady has continued to attend Bosavern all year for an extended period of support and work experience.

Series 2: (Jun-Aug 2021) 6 participants enrolled (target 12)

Activities: Weekly horticulture and cookery, bee-keeping talks and tours from the Cornish Black Bee Company and National Trust Wardens at Cape Cornwall. Catering and recruitment at outreach events.

Progression Narratives:

A lady in her 50s found work on a farm but we do not yet have evidence of this.

A young Biology graduate secured paid work with our friends over at Trenow Fields near Perranuthnoe. He loves his part time job and still has time to develop his own ideas while also continuing to volunteer at Bosavern helping us with our own deliveries.

A young man with severe speech and language difficulties was taken on by The Land's End Visitor Attraction to clear tables. This was his first ever job, he said *'I am proud'*. His boss was delighted with his work and is quoted as saying *'he turned out to be one of our best employees and we would happily have him back every year'*.

A young man made a proactive approach to Raptor Scaffolding who have since taken him on to assist with cleaning and maintenance and this is still working well.

Another lady in her 50s has found cleaning work at the Cork & Fork in Penzance after the owner's partner had met the participant on a bee-keeping workshop.

One man with aspergers continues to attend for ongoing work experience and employment support. He has attended an extra catering course at The Woodland Kitchen Bistro, he applied for catering courses and an Apprenticeships scheme and has approached a number of local cafes and bakeries for work. He is artistic and would ideally like part-time work in a bakery decorating cakes.

Series 3 (Sept-Dec 2021) 13 participants

Activities: Weekly horticulture and cookery, visit to Duchy College, Varfell, Events catering. The Woodland Kitchen Bistro and Re-Wilding Project, tree planting at the Cot Valley Permaculture Project, tree care at Bosavern and more tree care and brash hedge laying at Higher Keigwin Farm Wilding Project.

Progression Narratives:

Our project staff continue to support the participants from series 3 for a further 6 months to help them progress into work or training where possible but these are the stories so far...

A young Arts Graduate received support to join a Teaching English as a Foreign Language course. One very experienced lady has already been offered work with Go Cornwall bus company, another was offered work at the Cork & Fork along with a Dog Grooming placement for her animal care course although due to an unfortunate serious injury at home, has had to postpone these plans. A young adult did a month's work placement in Computer Aided Design at Raptor Scaffolding. One lady is due to meet with Land's End Airport to negotiate a work experience placement for her Home Educated son. Two people with disabilities attended job interviews at Varfell and the active search for appropriate employment or training continues for many into the New Year. We wish them all the best of luck.

Over and above the normal work of the project team, members of this group have had intensive support to sort out their benefits, lifts to health appointments, donations of clothing, emergency aid, furniture, white goods, bereavement leave, one young adult was supported to find housing and two mothers of Home Ed teenagers have been receiving our news bulletin containing suitable news of jobs, courses, events and activities.

Series 4 (Feb-Apr 2021)

Please contact Katie for an informal chat or to arrange a visit or taster session: 01736 272367 training@bosaverncommunityfarm.org.uk

Staff

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Dilys Down, Project Manager (part time Tues-Wed)

Julie Daybell, Finance Officer (part time Tues-Wed)

Ross Packer, Growing Activities Leader (Tues-Thurs)

Ali Campbell, Cookery Tutor (sessional)

Targets

Total Number of Participants at the end of 2021: 26 (original target was for 40 by April 2022)

It seems unlikely that we will be able to recruit a further 18 participants during the winter months of December and January for Series 4 in order to meet our original pre-pandemic estimate of 40 participants across the life of the project. As such, we are negotiating with our funders. Meanwhile, we would appreciate members of the community talking about this project to friends and neighbours to help us reach local, unemployed adults of working age for the fourth and final group.

Thanks

We would like to thank all the local businesses who have offered our participants employment, placements, site visits and interviews and we would like to thank the charities and friends of the farm who have quietly donated clothing and household goods to people in need.

This line of work has its challenges but these are vastly outweighed by the extremely rewarding results we see daily such as increased hope, skills and confidence; better social connections; improved mental and physical health; improved employment prospects, improved understanding of environmental issues as well as the many profound friendships which will outlive the course.