

## Out And About



**Nikki's  
Column**

The lifting of Covid-19 restrictions means our students are able to go out on jobs again as members of our garden maintenance and log delivery teams.

We're still restricted on how many people can be in vehicles together so it's not completely business as usual, but so far as possible we're making sure students get a chance to spend time in the community meeting customers. As well as gaining valuable work experience

tending gardens – mowing, weeding and tidying up – and stacking logs, they also benefit from the physical exercise and learn important life skills such as communication and teamwork.

Getting back to a normal routine is really important for our students and they're so excited to be back on the road, it's great to see! If you are interested in our gardening services or want to order in some logs for the colder months ahead, come into the Vineyard Garden Centre or call 01227 831052.

**Nikki Marley,**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Please Vote For Us

The Fifth Trust has been chosen to take part in the Asda Foundation Green Token Giving online vote through the Canterbury store.

Voting will close at midnight on Thursday 30 September. The charity with the most votes will receive £500 and the runners up £200.

Visit [www.asda.com/green-tokens](http://www.asda.com/green-tokens) and select Canterbury from the drop down box. You can vote once every seven days. We rely on donations to help us provide the best possible experience at our skills centres attended by adults with learning disabilities so every vote counts.

## Summit Success!



The Fifth Trust administrator Alison Turner and her friend Tracy Brudenell are celebrating after successfully climbing Mount Snowdon and raising over £1800 for us. The pair made an early 6am start on the summit on 23 July to beat the worst of the heat but the temperature still reached 24C during their sunny hike to the top of the 3,560ft (1,085m) Welsh peak and back.

"There were loose rocks everywhere at the summit but Tracy encouraged me to reach the compass right at the top, and we were rewarded with perfect views," said Alison.

It took the pair a little under three and a half hours to climb to the summit and another four to come down on their exhausted "jelly legs". Before heading off for a well-earned rest, they joined an online chat club session with students to tell them about their experience.

Alison said: "Tracy and I would like to thank everyone who sponsored us. It was a tough challenge but knowing we had so much support and that we were fundraising for such a great cause kept us going!"



**OPEN**

Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm  
Sun 10am - 4pm



**OPEN**

Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm  
Sun 10am - 4pm



**Unique  
wooden furniture  
01227 831052**

# Meet The Team: Ern Marden



When the coronavirus pandemic hit, Ern Marden found himself swapping his usual photography and media instructor role for something completely different. With both our skills centres forced to close in March 2020 when the country locked down, he was tasked with setting up an online service so students could continue their favourite sessions from home. Crucially, they would also be able to see familiar faces and talk to friends at a time when every one of us was feeling fearful and uncertain of what lay ahead.

“Remember this was a time when most people hadn’t even heard of Zoom!” recalls Ern, who joined us 11 years ago as a media instructor. Yet in a couple of days The Fifth Trust Online was live and within a fortnight of the lockdown a full weekly programme of nine different sessions, including art, cookery, karaoke and chat club, was available for our students to log on to. This was increased in later lock downs.

Such was the success of the service over the following months that Ern is now leading a team developing a permanent digital programme to run alongside our on-site student services. “We’re looking at creating a social skills package along with formal courses and accesses any time instructional videos that we will be able to offer to students unable physically or emotionally to join us in person or who live outside our catchment area.”

With students due to return to our full rota in September, Ern is looking forward to restarting photography sessions. “We get out and about when the weather is good, putting the theory I teach into practice. We’re surrounded by beautiful countryside which we walk in and we also visit local nature reserves, Canterbury and the seaside.”

He is also eagerly anticipating the opening of our redeveloped skills centre at Barham. “Craft and Media will have dedicated rooms for the first time so we can leave equipment out during break times, which will make a massive difference.”

## Café Staff Take On The Bake Off Challenge

Our young café crew love baking just as much as our students do! Raza, Emily A, Emily B and Max decided to do their own after-hours Bake Off – with the results going on sale if they were judged delicious enough (which apart from one epic fail, they were!).

The keen contestants took on three challenges – baking a triple layer chocolate cake with buttercream and ganache, making a bakewell tart with the barest of instructions, and, for the showstopper, creating a 1.5ft dessert tower! After winning one round each the final saw Emily B and Raza take the crown with their impressive summer fruit pavlova peak.

\*Even when our staff aren’t going head to head to test their skills, you will always find a great range of cakes, scones and desserts to enjoy at the café.

