

# new horizons

## Our Community Matters!

Jennifer Kelly, Community Liaison Officer, gives a review of North Edinburgh focused activities the college has achieved since September 2011.

For the second consecutive year our annual Higher Education Graduation celebration was held in September in the Hub at the heart of Edinburgh's Telford College. A wonderful evening was had by staff, students and invited guests, including key members of the North Edinburgh community. Graduands were piped in and entertained by singing, dancing and speakers including the College Principal – Miles Dibsall OBE, and guest of honour, comedienne and television presenter Jenny Éclair.

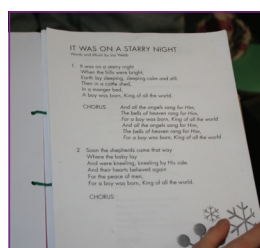


Looking at the stormy weather we have been having, it is hard to believe that it was only a couple of months ago we welcomed 4,000 local residents onto the Forthquarter Park for the third North Edinburgh Community Festival. The day was a great success, and Telford staff and students worked alongside several community partners to provide a free day of food, fun, information and entertainment for what is now a popular annual event. Gala Day will be held on Saturday **29th of September 2012** – put the date in your diary now!

The Forth Neighbourhood Partnerships Public Meeting was given an employability focus in October and the College hosted a market place style event where local and city wide organisations offered information and help in job hunting, career development and education. People who came also heard a number of very informative presentations including an update from Ken Shaw, Head of Employability and Skills: City of Edinburgh Council on current initiatives and how the city aims to support employability in this area with the local Forth Neighbourhood Partnership and partners.

The College is keen to support all of this in any way it is able to, and the past few months have seen Telford staff working closely with SACRO, Fairbridge, Citadel Youth Centre, Four Square, CORE, Link Living and WEAFT, Schools and Community Learning and Development and others. There are many ways we can work together, including offering presentations, College visits and tours, providing information stands and staff at partner events, supporting Annual General Meetings (AGMs). This year we designed and produced annual reports for both Stepping Stones (North Edinburgh) and the Prentice Centre.

We work with local schools and youth organisations including MYDG, Granton Youth Centre and PYCP. We also welcomed parents and pupils from Craigmoynton Community High School Royal High School, Leith Academy and Trinity on 14th December, when the College hosted an 'HN Experience Conference'. This was for S5 pupils from local schools, and gave them an ideal opportunity to get more information and advice on studying for a Higher National Certificate or Diploma (HNC/HND courses) in the future at college.

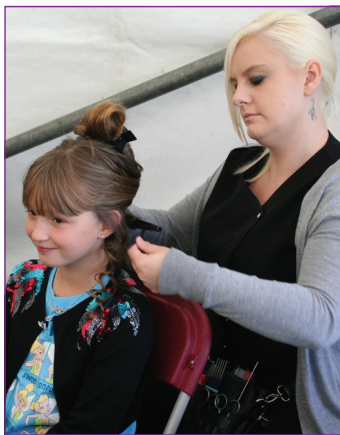


The College was the location for the 2011 North Edinburgh Waterfront Community Christmas Festival, which saw more than 150 residents and guests from the region attend the main Hub area of the College and get involved a range of activities including Christmas crafts, face painting and interactive entertainment. Festival visitors were also treated to a special performance of Christmas carols by children from Granton Primary School, which proved to be one of the biggest hits of the event. The Christmas festival, which is now in its fifth year, started life as a carolling service at Edinburgh Telford College's Hub, but has since grown into a fully-fledged festival event and one of the most important dates on the community calendar.

You can see that events are a significant part of our Community activities, but we also provide support and information to any individual person who is interested in coming to Telford College. We have regular drop-ins at the Community Renewal Project office in Unit 13, 11 Pennywell Court and represent the College at a wide variety of schools and careers events across Edinburgh and the Lothians. Get On Edinburgh, which links people up with the support they need to move forward in life and to work, is a service available within Learner Services in the Hub on the ground floor of the College, and members of the public are welcome to visit between 1 and 3pm on Wednesdays.

We are proud that our students also make their mark in our local community. HND student Michael Kerr's project to produce signage for the Forthquarter development was selected as the winning submission by National Grid. Michael produced a fully integrated campaign which included logo development, direct mail, signage points, ambient advertising and digital designs for web and mobile.

Students have been helping to spread some joy before Christmas by offering free haircuts to the Capital's homeless community. Twelve students and hairdressing staff from our SVQ2 Barbering class visited three of the Salvation Army's centres at Niddry Street, Cowgate and Ferry Road and brought some festive cheer by offering free haircuts to men at the centres. Congratulations to Royston Wardieburn Community Education Centre, whose new (impressive!) purpose built premises will provide a huge boost to the local area.



Representatives from over 25 North Edinburgh organisations were welcomed by Centre staff on 7th December for an inaugural visit and positive discussion about joint working and future initiatives. The 2012 diary is filling up and we look forward to working with Pentland Community Learning and Development, Forthview Primary School, West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre, Apex Scotland, and of course many others.

If any member of the Community would like to arrange a College visit, we can be contacted via the following link on our website:

[http://www.ed-coll.ac.uk/community/community\\_support.aspx](http://www.ed-coll.ac.uk/community/community_support.aspx)

### And Finally

As you will have heard in the local and national press, Edinburgh's Telford College has taken the decision to enter merger discussions with Jewel and Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh. The Government's white paper on post-16 vocational education makes clear its aim to refocus college provision so that it is more aligned with employer and community needs, jobs and growth. Telford has for several years collaborated successfully with its sister colleges across the City and the announcement will bring further positive developments and benefits especially for young people across Edinburgh.



The College is in a strong position thanks to the quality and commitment of its staff, the engagement with its students, the courses we offer and the quality of the college building and estate. With our partner colleges we will continue to provide an effective college sector in Edinburgh. Barbara Lawson, Head of External Liaison for the College, confirmed that Telford would keep members of its North Edinburgh Community up to date on opportunities for consultation and outcomes from these developments.