

WISE bids a fond farewell



Kaynie speaking at the recent 21st birthday celebrations

Kaynie McLellan joined WISE as an Employment Consultant way back in 1985. During this time Kaynie worked closely with her jobseekers to place them into paid employment and some of them are still working over 20 years later.

In 1996 Kaynie took up the role of Director and was successful in securing contracts with Jobcentre Plus and in bringing in funding into the organisation that enabled WISE to offer a range of vocational opportunities, in innovative ways, which helped our jobseekers develop additional skills.

Kaynie led the organisation through a successful Estyn Inspection and helped WISE achieve the Investors In People Award, which was recently renewed. The staff team valued Kaynie's skills in

supporting them to develop within WISE and her ability to put everyone she met at ease.

To show their appreciation the staff team organised a "surprise party" for Kaynie.

The event was well attended and is testament to how highly she is regarded. Past and present staff members, jobseekers, fellow professionals and Kaynie's family mingled together and a good time was had by all!

We wish her a happy retirement and look forward to viewing her holiday photographs of Australia.

Kaynie's vision and dedication will be remembered by those who worked with her and those she supported, for a long time to come. She will be a hard act to follow.



Kaynie is off to Australia for a well earned holiday

What are people upto?

Jobs



Lyndon's now working at Top Ten Bingo and Rebecca is at Baglan Lodge Nursing Home. Gregory's, at Cardonnel Court Care Home and Jay had a job at The Bluebell Hotel. Andrew is working for Compass catering in Tesco's Llansamlet, Rhys is working in the offices for NPT Social Services and Wayne, is with Care and Repair. Tricia is now working at Somerfield in Clydach.

Placements



Joanna and Steven have been at Compass in Tesco's Llansamlet. Adam, Leah and Paul are working in Morfa for TK Maxx while Ashley and Ken have been at Wheelies. Ben had a placement at WISE, Samantha at Pound Stretcher, in the Ferry and Carly, at the Cappacha Café. Neil & Elizabeth have placements with Swansea Industrial Components, while Leighton has been with Somerfield, Clydach. Liam's been with Peniel Green Nursing Home while John, Mark and Richard have been working for IT Asset Disposal Ltd, in Port Talbot. Damien's been in the library in Pontardawe and Andrew is with CKs Cwmbwla. Luke is at Neath Port Talbot Social Services in the Health and Housing Department, Katherine is at the Spar in Baglan and Gareth is on placement at Somerfield in Gorseinon. Tracy and David are with S and R Tradelink Ltd, Andrew finished a placement at Sainsbury's in Swansea and Francesca was at the Co-op. Catherine's at Woolies in Port Talbot, David's at the Colliers Arms and Jonathon's with Ace Tyres and Exhausts. Rhian's been cleaning at a private home, Matthew's at Neath Port Talbot Recycling Depot and Paul's up at Clyne Farm. Kyle's got a placement at Premier Stores in Port Talbot, Daniel's with Wilkinsons, Neath and Emily's at Maesmarchog Primary School. and finally Voluntary work....



Daniel is helping out at the Swansea Community Farm.

Neath Port Talbot College project

This year WISE is working with learners from the School of Pre Vocational Studies at Neath Port Talbot College to enable them to access work experience in a variety of work settings. The learners are in the 2nd year of their studies and this project is helping to prepare them for the world of work.



Nice one Rhys!



Rhys Davies was referred to WISE in October 2007 by his Disability Employment Adviser in Port Talbot Jobcentre to gain experience and develop his work related skills under the Work Preparation Programme.



After completing a short initial assessment at WISE he was offered a

work experience placement in the Training and Development section of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council where he was responsible for sorting mail, answering the telephone, photocopying, filing and data input.



After a period of six months his line manager and co-workers were so impressed by his performance and dedication that he was offered a paid temporary position.

Benefits Information

Employment and Support Allowance is a new benefit.

It is for people who find it harder to get a job because:

- They have a disability
- They have a problem with their health and will have this problem for a long time or the rest of their lives.

It replaces 2 benefits:

- Incapacity benefit and
- Income support (because of disability)

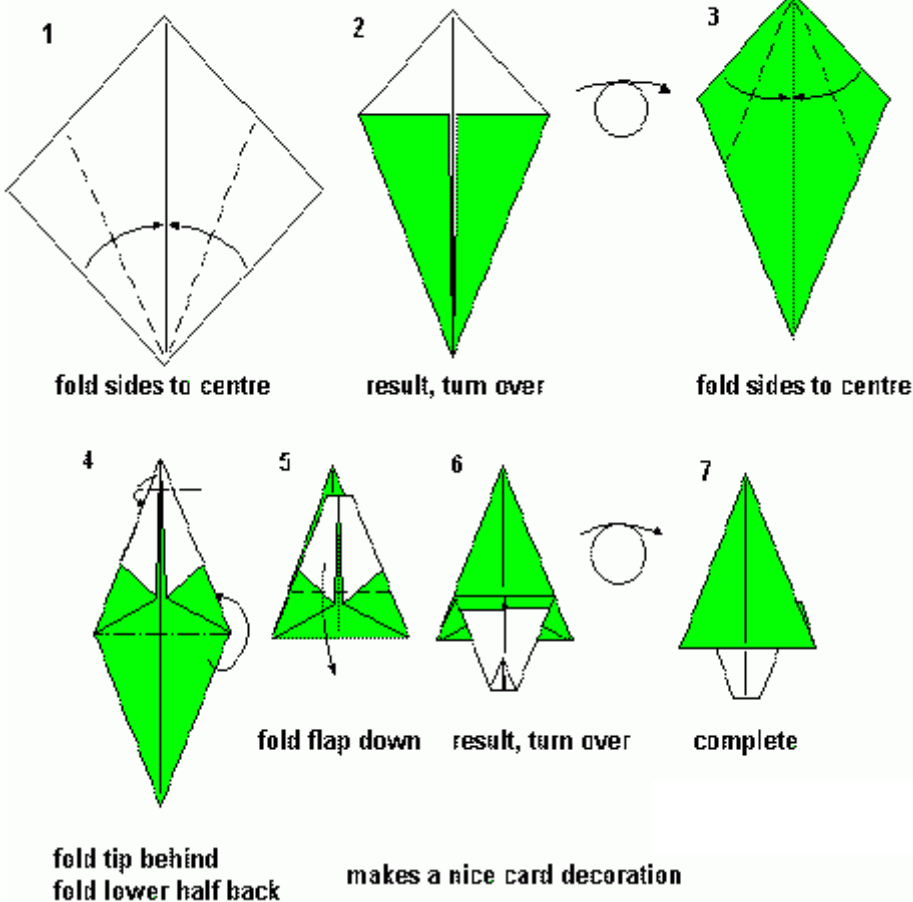
From 27 October 2008 people who get benefits for the first time because they have a disability or health problems will be on employment and support allowance.

From 2009 people who have been getting incapacity benefit and income support because of their disability or health problems will start to change to Employment and Support Allowance.

If you would like to know more about this benefit, the Disability Alliance, Mencap and the Autistic Society have got together to produce an easy to read guide which can be found on www.disabilityalliance.org/esa.htm or give Mike Barker a ring at WISE on 01792 538538.



CHRISTMAS TREE



ORIGAMI FUN!

This years fun Christmas challenge should keep you going for a while, especially after a few sherries and mince pies!

Follow the instructions carefully to see if you can make an origami christmas tree.

Send us a photo of your efforts and we'll print out the best ones in the summer edition.

Merry Christmas from everyone at WISE!