

# uk news

Rehab's Scottish division, Momentum, is continuing to expand rapidly following agreements which will significantly develop its presence in the social enterprise and employment training sectors.

Momentum has acquired the social enterprise firm Haven Products, whilst leading employment training organisation May-Tag has also come under its umbrella in a major development of the organisation's operations.

As a result of the latest expansion, Momentum now provides services to some 1,500 disabled and excluded people in 25 locations across Scotland each year. The acquisition of Haven Products will also see Momentum significantly increase its workforce. The company, which provides services for blue-chip clients such as IBM, currently employs around 110 staff, 86 per cent of whom are disabled, at its three sites at Hillington, Greenock and Inverness.

Chief Executive of Momentum, Ian Welsh, said: "This partnership will allow Haven and Momentum to become a more sizeable presence in the Scottish social economy sector at a time when the social economy in Scotland is poised for growth. In last year's Review of the Social Economy, the Scottish Executive confirmed its commitment to developing the capacity of social economy organisations to deliver public services.

"The Executive's follow-up Action Plan is expected to translate these commitments into hard action, signalling a more equal, more inclusive future for Scottish business



**Pictured at the May-Tag announcement (left to right) Murray Mair, Momentum finance director; Jim Ross, Momentum's HR consultant; Ellen Hawkes, community director at May-Tag and Ian Welsh, chief executive of Momentum.**

and Scotland's wage-earners. The forthcoming Future Builders initiative is also expected to increase the role of the voluntary sector in delivering vital services which may previously have been provided by the statutory or private sectors.

"It's often said that charity is about putting people before profits. The social economy sector shares that philosophy, but profit is not a dirty word. By bringing Momentum and Haven together we aim to run an efficient, commercially viable enterprise, delivering services to some of Scotland's largest companies and reinvesting the income to provide meaningful jobs

# Momentum gains Haven

'This partnership will allow Haven and Momentum to become a more sizeable presence in the Scottish social economy sector'  
- Momentum chief executive, Ian Welsh



**Clients at work in Haven's Hillington premises.**

for people who may never before have been given the chance to earn a wage."

David Whyte, managing director of Haven Products, said: "Haven will continue to operate as before from our three sites at Hillington, Greenock and Inverness. There will be no changes in terms of our staffing levels, but the new partnership will allow us to develop our workforce and customers will all benefit from the support structure that comes with being part of a larger national organisation."

Meanwhile, Ayrshire-based May-Tag, which recently celebrated its 16th birthday,

has joined Momentum in a move which will allow both organisations to develop their services in the employment training sector.

The organisation is involved in a range of community enterprise activities, offering practical employment training in a variety of areas including horticulture, office administration and ICT. Literacy and numeracy training is also offered, with support from South Ayrshire Community Learning Partnership.

Two May-Tag projects, Groundforces

which provides horticultural training and Maybole Training, which focuses on IT and business administration training, are delivered under contract to Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.

Maybole Access Point, which receives New Futures funding, supports people to identify and tackle obstacles preventing them from accessing employment. And a new Resource Centre – funded by £180,000 from the Big Lottery over the next three years - has just been opened to assist local organisations.

Said Mr Welsh: "This partnership will allow May-Tag to build on the foundations it has already laid in the community and continue assisting people to move towards employment while benefiting from the support structure that comes with being part of a larger national organisation."

Community Director of May-Tag, David Kiltie, added: "I am very pleased that the company will be working so closely with Momentum, a company whose vision is very much in line with May-Tag's. Hopefully we can build on the work which has been carried out in the past by our staff and voluntary directors."

## A young girl's courage and a mother's determination in the wake of almost unimaginable tragedy have not been in vain thanks to Momentum's expertise in providing rehabilitation services for people with brain injury.

Jacqueline Gillespie was just six years old when she sustained horrific injuries in a car smash in the Scottish Borders which decimated her family. Both her grandmother and her younger brother, John, aged four, died in the crash. Jacqueline's head had swollen to three times its usual size, her jaw was broken and she had lost seven teeth. As she moved in and out of consciousness, doctors were uncertain as to whether she would survive.

Now, thanks to her own determination, the support of her mother, Janice Moul and the professional help of Momentum, 11 year old Jacqueline is back at school, playing with friends and singing in the school choir.

Jacqueline's story was revealed at an open day held by Momentum's Borders

Brain Injury Service to raise awareness of its work. The service provides specialist rehabilitation and training to people from across the Scottish Borders who have sustained a brain injury, from its base in Kelso.

Speaking at the Open Day, Janice paid tribute to Momentum for the 'lifeline' they have given Jacqueline and herself as they try to rebuild their lives.

Following the accident, doctors operated on Jacqueline to reduce the pressure on her brain caused by her head swelling. It was an

extremely difficult time for Janice, who had to attend her mother and her son's funeral the morning after Jacqueline's major operation.

Once they had reduced the pressure doctors were able to operate on Jacqueline's hip, which was fractured, and put a plate into her arm. She also had plastic surgery in an effort to repair damage to her forehead.

For the first three weeks after the accident, Jacqueline couldn't walk or talk, but gradually her ability to do so returned. After two months at the Sick Children's Hospital she was discharged back to Borders General Hospital as an outpatient, and it was at this time that the ongoing effects of her brain injury became apparent.

Jacqueline had sustained a significant

**Jacqueline Gillespie (front row, far left) and her mother, Janice Moul (front row, far right) pictured at Momentum's Borders Brain Injury Service Open Day.**

brain injury, which caused severe verbal memory problems, leaving her unable to remember what people had said to her. She had mood swings, language problems, a fear of being left alone and was terrified of closed doors.

Following the accident, Janice and Jacqueline joined the Integrate programme, where they were assisted to understand the effects of brain injury and to learn techniques to manage the injury, so that Jacqueline could continue to live as full a life as possible.

Integrate put Janice and Jacqueline in





'Momentum helped me to understand how Jacqueline's brain injury was affecting her and having it explained by someone made it much easier to cope.'

Janice Moul, Jacqueline's mother

# Braveheart Jacqueline's fightback

touch with counsellors and other support and advice workers and liaised closely with Jacqueline's school to ensure that teachers understood the issues surrounding brain injury. Momentum also ensured that Jacqueline was given the correct support at school, with reading and writing.

To date Jacqueline and her mother have continued gaining support through the Integrate programme run by Momentum. Janice said: "Integrate was a lifeline. It helped me to understand brain injury and to explain medical terms that I wasn't familiar with."

"After losing my mother and son, I was determined to do everything I could to help Jacqueline. Momentum helped me to understand how Jacqueline's brain injury was affecting her and having it explained by someone made it much easier to cope. They also put me in touch with other people who could give me advice and support and helped me to sort out things like benefits."

Though there is still a long way to go – Jacqueline will have to continue to be assessed by doctors as her brain develops and may need further skin grafts on her forehead when she has stopped growing – the future is looking a lot brighter.

Also among the speakers at the Open Day was up-and-coming Scottish writer

Lynsey Calderwood who talked about her personal experiences of brain injury. Lynsey is the author of the book *Cracked* – a personal account of her experiences of traumatic brain injury, which was widely acclaimed on release.

Lynsey's brain injury was sustained after she banged her head aged 14 and the resulting injury effectively wiped her memory. She is now building a successful career as a writer and her second book is currently being considered by agents. Lynsey received assistance from Momentum's Glasgow Brain Injury Service to manage the effects of her brain injury – which include severe difficulties with finding her way around.



**Chaseley residents with singer Patti Boulaye (centre) at the Buckingham Palace garden party.**

A trip to Buckingham Palace to meet the Princess Royal; a visit by some of the RAF's most accomplished flyers; and an award presentation to the employee of the year are just some of the recent highlights from the action-packed programme at Chaseley.

Residents and staff from the Eastbourne-based residential home enjoyed a great day out at a garden party at the palace hosted by Princess Anne, courtesy of the Not Forgotten Association, of which she is patron.

The event featured music from the Band of the Scots Guards and the Pipers of the Scots Guards Association.

Both Princess Anne and a host of celebrities mingled with guests, who enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea in the beautiful Palace grounds.

Meanwhile, members of the Nimrod Display Team based at RAF Kinloss in Scotland, who participated in Eastbourne's annual air show, took time out from their busy schedule to drop in to The Chaseley Trust to chat to residents and staff.

They also met up with some distinguished guests, including Eastbourne Mayor Barbara Goodall, and the Chairman of East Sussex County Council, Councillor Daphne Bagshawe.

Flight Sergeant Jase McPherson presented a framed, personally signed print of their plane for Chaseley to keep, and also donated another signed print which will be auctioned in the near future to raise money for the charity.

Each year Chaseley's residents



**Mary Tester, a resident at Chaseley, with a yeoman of the Queen's bodyguard.**



**Chaseley resident Bill Dempsey with actor Bernard Cribbins at Buckingham Palace.**

**Right: Members of Chaseley's Activities Department who organise a wide range of events were named as the Department of the Year 2004.**



**Flt Sgt Jase McPherson with Eastbourne Mayor Barbara Goodall, Councillor Daphne Bagshawe and Flt Sgt Niggles.**



**Members of the RAF Nimrod Display Team with Chaseley residents.**



and staff nominate candidates for two special awards: The Department of the Year, which is awarded for developing services and making the most progress and impact on service users, and Employee of the Year, for an individual employee who has excelled in their job. This year's honours go to the Activities Department and Senior Therapy Assistant Val Williams.

The five strong Activities Department organise a wide range of occupational therapies both inside and outside the home. Indoor activities include art, creative writing, music appreciation, table tennis, pool, indoor bowls, quizzes and themed evenings. External activities range from carriage driving, sports and swimming, to day trips to France, London and local places of interest.

Employee of the Year Val Williams provides support to the physiotherapists and occupational therapists contracted from East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust to work at Chaseley. Val is also employed by the NHS Trust, and has worked for them since 1986, with the past eight years spent at Chaseley.

**uk news**

# A right Royal occasion

Participants on TBG Learning courses have proved the world is their oyster by landing prestigious global learning awards.

TBG Learners in Barking and Derby were celebrating gold and silver medal success having achieved first and second place in the world in their London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Business Administration exams.

Daniela Udaw from Dagenham and Geraldine Lawrence from Derby, were amongst over 500 learners worldwide to sit the same exam, including 200 in the UK. LCCI Examinations Board is the leading global provider of vocational, business-related examinations.

Gold medal winner, Daniela, now works full-time in a local doctor's surgery. She called in at TBG Learning Barking at the end of June to be presented with her medallion by Roger Horne, TBG learning business and curriculum development manager. Daniela's tutor Rosemary Rene and training manager Mina Mistry were also present.

Commenting on the award, Frank Xavier, centre manager at TBG Barking, said: "Daniela's achievement has delighted us all and has set the standard for our future learners' endeavours."

There were celebrations also at TBG Derby when Geraldine

Lawrence was invited back to the centre last June to collect her silver medal.

"The Administration course was excellent, especially for anyone who may not have worked for a while or for those with no office experience who want to go into this sort of work," said Geraldine. "My tutor Meeta was very encouraging and patient. I have recently had a baby but am looking forward to starting my Level 2 course as soon as I can."

Speaking on the dual medal success, TBG learning's business and curriculum development manager Roger Horne, said: "To get first and second in the same exam sitting, with learners doing the paper hun-

**Learner of the Year, Adele York with David Cragg, LSC regional director, West Midlands.**



dreds of miles apart, is quite outstanding. Collaborative arrangements with colleges have attracted a lot of uninformed criticism. Daniela and Geraldine's achievements are a clear demonstration of how an independent provider like TBG Learning can deliver consistently high levels of quality and prove the critics wrong."

TBG Learning currently attracts over two thousand new learners every month onto courses throughout its eleven centres including a high percentage of the 'hard to reach' groups identified as a priority in UK Government policy. Nationally, over 59% of TBG learners are from ethnic minorities, and this figure rises to 78% in South London. TBG is also one of the largest learndirect providers in the UK and has

contracts with ten local Learning and Skills Councils for Apprenticeships and/or e2e programmes.

Meanwhile learning funded by the Employer Training Pilot and managed by TBG Learning West Midlands has inspired a Birmingham mum of two, Adele York, to dramatically enhance her career prospects and win the accolade of Learner of the Year.

Train2gain, the local brand name for the Employer Training Pilot helped Adele, one of seven employees at local firm Prince of Wales Catering, to gain an NVQ Level 2 in Customer Service. Adele is now building on that success by taking a management course at Birmingham's College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies.

# TBG Learners strike gold and silver



'The Administration course was excellent, especially for anyone who may not have worked for a while or for those with no office experience who want to go into this sort of work'

- Geraldine



**Geraldine Lawrence** with her silver medal, above. Below: Gold medal winner Daniela Udaw with Roger Horne, TBG Learning, business and curriculum development manager.

