



York Disabled Workers Cooperative Ltd

Run by Disabled People for Disabled People

YDWC Newsletter

www.yorkdwc.co.uk

Number 2 August 2010

Our mission

To produce ethically manufactured products made where possible from recycled materials, and employing disabled people on terms that exceed ILO standards of employment.

The Times, They are a Changing at YWDC

And they are changing at a pace too!!

On Monday 23rd August we will see the first disabled employee being taken on from the people who elected to stay on Remploy Terms and Conditions. He will still be paid by Remploy and this arrangement will be reviewed after 12 months. It is a major milestone in the short history of the YDWC. We are now starting to redress the injustice of the closure of the Remploy factory in York.

All our machinery has been installed and the timber has been stored in racks, we are now ready to go!!

We have started producing samples and prototypes, and will be starting full production in the very near future. As we stated in our last edition our main products will be not only garden products but products that will enhance the bio-diversity of the garden such as bee homes ladybird homes, bat boxes, and hedgehog boxes as well as bird tables and nesting boxes.

We will also be manufacturing pet accommodation such as dog kennels, rabbit hutches, and chicken runs etc.

As well as starting the production process, the infrastructure of the YDWC has started to come together quite nicely.

**WATCH OUT FOR OUR NEW CATALOGUE AND PRICE LIST
AVAILABLE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2010**



Large
Bird
Table

Two of Our Products



Wishing Well



Paul Kelly gets to grips with the new planer



Some samples and prototypes

The techno guys and girls out there who are eagle eyed would have noticed that we have sharpened up our logo. Whilst all of us here at YDWC were fond of the old logo, it did not come up to the standards required to be able to reproduce on documents and signs, so we updated it. Now the new logo stands proud on our new factory sign.

Thanks to the generosity of Remploy for donating 2 fully functional PCs, we will soon be online and have all the necessary equipment and resources to be able to run a 21st century business efficiently. We already have a website, www.yorkdwc.co.uk which is in the process of being built. On that site we will have facilities for online sales and payment, an E catalogue, and a myriad of news and features about the YDWC.

Along with all the information on the website we will be producing a catalogue in hard copy and have facilities to handle orders by the more traditional methods such as phone and hard copy order forms. All our contact details will appear at the back of this newsletter.

A Massive Thank You From all of us at YDWC

Without the huge generous help and support we have had from our supporters we would never have even got this far we would like to thank;

Mike Brown and his team in Finforest for their donation of timber, Remploy Social Enterprise Business and in particular Jo Munns for very generously donating the IT equipment for our office, the Remploy Education Furniture Business for generously donating office furniture, the Unite Offices in Hull for their computer tables, the Remploy Swansea factory for two drilling machines and GMB Leicester Services Branch for the donation of a photocopier.

The financial support we have received has been outstanding, the continuing support from GMB Regions in particular the Yorkshire Region, branches, individual members and of course the 3 GMB Sections has been tremendous. We have also received massive support from other Unions. We would like to thank the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Bakers Union (BFAWU), the PCS, the Musicians Union and Unite for their outstanding contributions. Finally to all those individuals and organisations who are supporting us, but are far too numerous to mention;

A very heartfelt and sincere thank you, we really appreciate your kindness and support



Our New Sign hangs proudly over the entrance

Much Appreciated Support from the Battersea & Wandsworth Trades Council

Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council have come up trumps for the YDWC. After a presentation to the Trades Council by founder members Steve Sargent and Les Woodward, the Trades Council endorsed significant support to the YDWC by making available a substantial interest free loan.

After the meeting Trades Council member, Steve Pryle, stated that the YDWC *“is something very exciting, innovative and important for the future employment possibilities for disabled people in the future, the Trade Union and Labour movement should embrace it wholeheartedly!!”*

Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council are not afraid of backing their commitments to the hilt, they have also promised to talk to us about orders. As the owner of the Workers Beer Company, there is the possibility of work being secured for the replacement of the picnic-type tables that are used at various festivals, where the Workers Beer Company has a marquee, such as Glastonbury and Tollpuddle.

Phil Davies, YDWC Secretary, commented *“This is fantastic news; we would like to thank the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council not only for their outstanding generosity but also for their faith in the YDWC.”*

Funding will still be a short term necessity for us. As we stated in the first newsletter we are not there yet. Our goal is to be self sufficient, but realistically we know that goal cannot be achieved overnight. Starting a venture such as the YDWC cannot be done properly by cutting corners. We still desperately need funds. The details of how supporters can help are on the back of the newsletter.

The Apprentice!

No, we are not talking about the TV programme where unlucky contestants were told *“You’re fired!”* by Alan Sugar, but another cornerstone of YDWC’s mission and that is to take on a young person with a disability as an apprentice.

Steve Sargent, one of our founder members, is currently talking to the TUC about funding and the process of taking on the responsibility of teaching a young disabled person a trade which will stand them in good stead for their lifetime. We believe there can be very few things more satisfying than making products with your own hands and skills.

As the route into University is set to get tougher and tougher, apprenticeships are a credible and worthwhile alternative. To quote Scarlet Harris, the TUC’s Apprenticeship Policy and Campaign officer from the TUC website, *“The Government has said that it is putting an extra £150 million into apprentices, but the apprenticeships system will only be a success if employers are willing to take them on”* She also added *“Apprenticeships are not a second-best route for those who have failed to achieve in the academic world - or have failed to get a university place. What we are pushing for - and I think the Government is as well - is that they are seen as a valued route in themselves.”*

We certainly believe in the value that a good quality, solid, apprenticeship scheme can bring not only to the employer but also to the individual. We will keep you up to speed with Steve’s progress.



Octagonal Planter



Traditional Square Planter

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Finances are the key to this project being a successful enterprise

Please make cheques payable to;

The York Disabled Workers Cooperative Ltd

And send to

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