


# ECO Work-Shop CIC Case Study: Waitrose

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| <b>Staff involved</b>                     | ECO Work-Shop staff and Participants  |
| <b>Date of project</b>                    | 24.08.22  |
| <b>Community group and other partners</b> | Volunteers from Waitrose  |
| <b>Main aim of the project</b>            | To finish developing the garden space as well as support Waitrose   |
| <b>Resources</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1500 donation from Waitrose</li> <li>• 4 Waitrose Partner volunteers</li> <li>• 15 rolls of turf</li> <li>• 4 tins of garden paint</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Activities</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Painting the shed</li> <li>• Preparing the ground</li> <li>• Laying turf</li> <li>• Painting beds</li> <li>• Clearing vegetation from the beds (prep for next season)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Outputs</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 17m<sup>2</sup> of ground prepared and turf laid</li> <li>• 5 participants working with volunteers</li> <li>• 4 Waitrose volunteers supported</li> <li>• 76 m<sup>2</sup> of painting completed</li> <li>• 16 volunteer hours achieved</li> </ul> |





| Ultimate Impacts   | Short and Long-Term Outcomes  |
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| <p><b>Working with ECO Work-Shop</b></p>                 | <p><i>“Both my colleagues, and myself found it to be an incredibly rewarding experience talking to the participants. It was enlightening to hear about their individual backstories, whilst learning more about the things that they enjoyed doing at home, and at ECO-Work-Shop. The participants appeared enthused, engaged and motivated when they spoke about the varied activities they were involved with; this certainly fed through to the partners”.</i></p> <p>Kate Berg – Duty Manager Waitrose Stratford upon Avon</p>  |
| <p><b>Changing perceptions: understanding Autism</b></p> | <p><i>“I must confess that our knowledge and understanding of autism, and learning difficulties was rather limited prior to working with ECO-Work-Shop. However, I am pleased to say that we certainly feel that we have a deeper understanding following our experience with the organisation. I believe that our perceptions have changed, and that we now have a greater awareness of the trials and tribulations faced by the participants when accessing productive, and meaningful activities within the workplace”.</i></p> <p>Kate Berg – Duty Manager Waitrose Stratford upon Avon</p>   |
| <p><b>Developing Knowledge</b></p>                       | <p><i>“The combined experiences of working with the participants, and also listening to Sue &amp; Richard talking about the organisation has had an immensely positive impact on partners. My colleagues said that they feel they have greater confidence and ability to support customers and partners with learning difficulties. The partners also spoke incredibly highly of Eco Work-Shop’s work within the community, and of the passion and knowledge demonstrated by both Sue and Richard during the talk. The discussion also prompted some really interesting and valuable conversations on the topic with partners who had been unable to attend”.</i></p> <p>Kate Berg – Duty Manager Waitrose Stratford upon Avon</p>  |
| <p><b>Wellbeing: Community Engagement</b></p>            | <p><i>“I know that I not only speak for myself when I say how much my overall sense of wellbeing had increased after spending time in the garden with the participants. It was an incredibly rewarding experience to give something back to the community; whilst the participant’s delightfully positive and refreshing attitude was a breath of fresh air, and certainly put things in perspective. We very much hope that we will have the opportunity to support ECO-Work-Shop again in the not-too-distant future”.</i></p> <p>Kate Berg – Duty Manager Waitrose Stratford upon Avon</p>   |
| <p><b>Project Publicity</b></p>                          | <div data-bbox="443 1534 1241 1960" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1284 1541 1540 1653" data-label="Caption"> <p><b>◀ WR STRATFORD-UPON-AVON</b><br/>Partners spent time volunteering at Eco Work-Shop, which helps adults with autism and learning difficulties engage in rewarding activities. L-R, back row: Kate Berg, Melanie Green, Debra Coton and Penelope Tredwell.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1284 1713 1540 1915" data-label="Text"> <p><b>SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS</b><br/>Email your high-resolution photos, along with a description of what’s happening, to <a href="mailto:gazettenews@johnlewis.co.uk">gazettenews@johnlewis.co.uk</a>, or upload them directly at <a href="http://goo.gl/HYwRsK">goo.gl/HYwRsK</a>. We’ll also be looking through the Partnership’s Google+ communities, so keep posting. Check this page every week to see if you made it into print.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1468 1926 1540 1960" data-label="Page-Footer"> <p>23.09.22   19</p> </div> <p>This is an article in the internal Waitrose Gazette – Sept 2023.</p> |

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| <p><b>Social Media Links</b></p> | <p>Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ecoworkshopcic">https://www.facebook.com/ecoworkshopcic</a><br/>         Twitter: @WorkshopCic<br/>         Instagram: ecoworkshopcic<br/>         Youtube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PrBzCC3ZrM&amp;t=80s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PrBzCC3ZrM&amp;t=80s</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Project Update</b></p>     | <p>Since the partners completed the volunteer day, Waitrose have kindly offered to sell our cards in the shop entrance in the customer services area. This has been incredible for us as it helps support our work as well as maintain our working relationship. We now regularly visit every two weeks and update the card stock / collect monies. The participants love this activity, and it generates an average £100 per month for Work-Shop in card sales.</p>   |
| <p><b>Project Summary</b></p>    | <p>This project began as Kate Berg (Duty Manager from Waitrose) was introduced to us by Warwickshire CAVA (Community and Volunteer Action). They were looking for a local volunteer project that the partners could support for half a day. After an initial meeting with Kate (who came to see the site and meet the participants) it was decided that their time could be spent in the garden completing a few tasks before the end of the growing season. There were still areas that needed more ground preparation and turf laying as well as lots of painting and tidying. The beds needed tidying, weeding and waste garden material broken down and composted.</p> <p>The activity day was well received by the participants as they worked with the partners from Waitrose and spent morning break together. Participant Gemma said <i>“I liked working with Kate, it was good. I want to do it more”</i>. After the activity day, Sue Morrison (Director) and Richard Weaver (Projects) gave a talk to the Partners at Waitrose about what ECO Work-Shop does as well as an introduction into autism and learning disabilities. This was to assist the partners with how they support and engage people with additional needs within the store and to answer any questions they may have. The Partners who attended agreed to disseminate this information to other staff who could not attend.</p> <p>The team at Waitrose (led by Kate Berg) were keen to continue supporting their local community and Work-Shop by selling our handmade cards in store and promoting the work by Work-Shop to customers. This has enabled continued discussion within the store from the partners as customers as where the cards are from.</p> |