

# OUR APPRENTICES

# SUCCESSSES



By **GRAEME CULLIFORD**



**THREE youngsters are laying the foundations for their future after bagging construction apprenticeships thanks to The Sun on Sunday.**

We published more than 100 apprenticeship vacancies over the summer as part of our Builder Better Britain campaign, following an earlier campaign in 2023. And now school leaver Mason Newton has secured his "dream job" after picking up our exclusive pullout.

Mason, 17, from Ilkeston, Derbys, said: "It's always been my dream to be an apprentice and if it wasn't for your pullout I might never have landed this one, so I want to say a big thanks to The Sun on Sunday. I expect I'll be starting work in about a week and I will be mixing on-site experience with lessons at Derby College and getting paid for it too."

Mason was over the moon when he was hired as an apprentice brickie with East Midlands Masonry at the end of last month. The firm is run by Robert Hodgkinson. His father Ian, who is one of the stars of the BBC's DIY SOS show, acts as a construction director for the company.

Mason added: "It is really hard finding an apprenticeship. You are competing with so many people."

"I left school in July but I started applying to be an apprentice about ten months ago because I knew exactly what I wanted to do."

Mason is one of dozens of young recruits crediting our Builder Better Britain campaign for helping them take their first steps into the construction industry.

The campaign aims to help people of all ages and backgrounds get involved in creating the homes, schools and hospitals the UK needs.

Bricklayer Jacob Bertholini, 19, from Hull, is another hard grafter who is thankful for our drive.

### 'It's really satisfying'

He started his apprenticeship with Caddick Construction and EN:Able Futures in September last year.

He said: "It's going really well. I did five weeks of college and then I was fast-tracked to working on-site."

"I was put in with a gang to start with but now I'm working independently alongside another apprentice."

"My company builds council houses and it's really satisfying to make something with your hands then step back and see it turn into a person's home."

"I'm on minimum wage right now but I'll be making £150 a day once I qualify and I won't have all the debt university students do."

"If anyone else read your pullouts and is thinking about taking up a trade, I would say go for it."

Meanwhile, Alex White started his procurement apprenticeship with EN:Procare after our previous job list pullout was published two years ago.

Alex, 20, from Barnsley, negotiates purchases for his construction company so those on-site have the resources they need.

He also credits The Sun on Sunday with helping kick-start his career.

He said: "For me an apprenticeship is about getting real-world experience and a qualification without having to pay for it."

"I did A-levels and there was pressure to go down the university route, but I knew it wasn't for me."

"Thankfully, I got lucky and got one of the only procurement apprenticeships available two years ago."

"It's definitely been the right choice for me and I'm building a career so I can't thank The Sun on Sunday enough for what you are doing with this campaign."



**MASON NEWTON, 17**

'I'll be mixing on-site experience with college and getting paid for it too'

# JOBS A GOOD'UN



**JACOB BERTHOLINI, 19**

'It's really satisfying to make something with your hands'



**ALEX WHITE, 20**

'It's definitely the right choice and I'm building a career'



Accused... Manson

## Violent ex made me pray in nude

By **ZEENIA NAQVEE**

A DIVORCEE was made to pray naked outside in winter by her violent and controlling new partner, a court heard.

Sally Ann Norman, 64, said Anthony Manson, 68, forced her to strip.

She said: "I was shivering, it was dark. Eventually he let me in. My teeth were chattering."

They had met at Glas-tonbury in 2015 and they converted to Sufi Islam.

Ms Norman said after 15 months they had a non-legal Sufi marriage.

She told police Manson, of Tintern, Monmouth-shire, ordered her to wear a full-face veil after leaving her with a black eye.

She said he tied her up and held her head in a box of water.

In the week she left him in 2023, Ms Norman said he dragged her by the hair, put a knife to her throat and told her he would "chop her up".

Manson denies coercive or controlling behaviour.

His trial continues at Cardiff crown court.

### BUCKET'S

AN unlucky postie was told: "I should have thought postmen would be trained to recognise first-class stamp houses."



### BELTERS

## £6.5m for coin sale

A HUGE collection of gold coins covering every British monarch since Magna Carta sold for £6.5million at auction.

More than 1,000 rare coins from 1215 onwards went under the hammer.

A Victorian Una and the Lion coin from 1839 sold for £233,000.

A golden sovereign from the Wars of the Roses victor Edward IV went for £92,000.

Collected by three overseas sellers over 50 years, the coins attracted 1,500 bidders at London's Spink & Son sale.

The auctioneer's Gregory Edmund said: "This was the biggest and most valuable sale of English coins to ever take place in the United Kingdom."

### BUCKET'S

POOR Richard was told bluntly that their son Sheridan "deserves a father full of executive stress, wearing a bow tie".



### BELTERS