

# Training firm goes the extra mile for local communities

Andie Marshall, business manager at Petans, takes a look back at the company's community initiatives over the past 12 months.

**H**ere at Petans, we have been delivering professional safety and survival training to the offshore energy sector for over 40 years.

With the end of 2024 approaching, it's a good time to reflect on the things we do that go beyond our day-to-day training delivery.

As a registered charity, we are always focused on our charitable objectives. We are also conscious of our local community and the value we can provide as part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR).

We prioritise investment in training facilities and equipment to provide high-quality training for the sector. It also allows us to offer innovative grants to support individuals, local companies and the wider energy sector.

This year we added a third grant scheme to enable those engaged with employability charities to access the safety training needed for a career in the energy sector.

The grants are something that we return as part of our charitable status, but we look to go beyond this as we engage with our community.

Earlier this year we welcomed students from Reepham, Aylsham and Cromer High Schools to engage in work experience. This saw them join our courses, giving them a taste of the training that is needed to work in the energy sector.

It was also an opportunity to interact with our staff and delegates, gaining insight into careers in the military and emergency services.

In October we welcomed a group of 20 engineering students from City College Norwich for a taster day. They enjoyed a day of theoretical and practical exercises, including the opportunity to experience helicopter underwater escape training (HUET) in the pool.

The day was a resounding success and, like the work experience, something we will repeat next year.

"Our work experience days go back as long as people can remember," said Ian Richards,



Petans welcomed a group of engineering students from City College Norwich for a taster day in October. Below left, Andie Marshall, business manager at Petans. Below right, Ian Richards, training and operations manager

Images: PETANS



training and operations manager. "We love giving young people that opportunity to test themselves in new situations, and possibly do things they will never get to do again."

"We see them grow through the week and take on leadership roles in team exercises. Seeing that real sense of achievement as they gain confidence hopefully gives them an insight into their own career aspirations."

As a local employer, we believe it is important that we demonstrate our value to the community, which includes our

environmental responsibilities.

Whether it's recycling our water, putting solar panels in place or looking out for the wildlife that passes through our site, we endeavour to manage our impact as best we can whilst delivering a valued service to our industry.

We do everything to make our staff feel valued – and that goes beyond trying to be a good employer.

Each year we look to support local charities, either through a bake sale and/or charity collection. Our bake sale this year



raised £500, and we split the proceeds between the Big C Cancer Charity in Norwich and Blood Cancer UK.

One in every two individuals will be affected by cancer in their lifetime, and like many companies, Petans is aware how this can affect our workforce and their families, so it was important that we gave back to these two amazing charities.

Each Christmas we try to get involved in supporting local charities. In the past we have looked to support St Martins Housing Trust, The Benjamin

Foundation and Scotty's Little Soldiers, to name a few.

This year we have chosen to support Norwich Open Christmas by collecting non-perishable food items for the guests to take home.

Norwich Open Christmas is a yearly event which takes place on December 25 to give people who are alone, homeless, or in need a Christmas celebration.

It's just another small way of giving back to the communities around us.

**For more information, please visit [petans.co.uk](https://www.petans.co.uk)**