

# Brogan learns new skills from local employees

DUBLIN football captain Alan Brogan took time out of his busy schedule recently to visit a Northside-based social enterprise that's making a positive impact on communities.

As one of the recipients of the Arthur Guinness Fund, Speedpak Ireland, based in Clonshaugh, currently employs 44 people. It provides a training ground for long-term unemployed and a stepping-stone into full time work.

Dublin's star forward Brogan visited the Speedpak employees to learn how their everyday skills enable them to earn recognised qualifications up to Leaving Certificate standard.

"I am really proud to be rep-

resenting both Speedpak and the Arthur Guinness Fund," he said.

"It's really encouraging to see the opportunities being created by Speedpak. I met some extremely inspiring people here who kindly took time out of their working day to teach me some practical skills. "The Speedpak team are also gaining qualifications at work which is invaluable, particularly for those who didn't sit their Leaving Certificate."

John Murphy, chief execu-

tive of Speedpak, said they were delighted that Alan visited to get a real sense of how Speedpak operates.

"Our on-the-job training provides a positive experience of formal learning and education and Alan has the chance to see this for himself," stated Mr Murphy.

"As a result of the ongoing support from the Arthur Guinness Fund, more than half of our staff are on target to completing the training programme.

"This means that by September, they will achieve the equivalent of a Leaving Certificate."

One of the inspiring people that Alan shared his day with was Donna Clancy, from Kilbarrack, who took him through the steps of making a rosette from scratch.

Donna, who left school early after completing her Inter Cert, had been working in the home for most of her time before joining Speedpak in 2009.

She joined Speedpak with little employment experience or qualifications, and two years on she now has responsibility in both the commercial and manufacturing divisions within the company.

Donna has a real appetite for learning and is eager to catch-up on the education that



● **STAR TURN:** Alan Brogan pictured with employees of Speedpak during his recent visit to Clonshaugh.

she missed out on.

Donna completed a programme called Healthy Food Made Easy and subsequently became a trainer of the programme, delivering it to a number of local community based organisations.

Meanwhile, Darren Kilalee, from Coolock, showed Alan how to operate a shrink-wrapping machine.

Darren, who joined Speedpak in 2009, left school at an early age to work in a fish market.

Since joining Speedpak, he has been trained in the use of

plant and equipment management and understands all of the manufacturing processes and operational procedures involved.

Darren is now half way to earning the equivalent of a Leaving Certificate from his workplace training and has already achieved a distinction in two of his training modules.

Alan Brogan added: "It was fantastic meeting Donna, Darren and the rest of the team. Their confidence and enthusiasm was fantastic and I can see that they both have great futures ahead of them."



● **BLUE IS THE COLOUR:** Dublin football captain and Arthur Guinness Fund Ambassador, Alan Brogan, pictured with Donna Clancy during his visit to Speedpak in Clonshaugh.

**Aware volunteering day rescheduled**  
DUE to the Queen's visit, the Volunteering Open Day planned by Aware has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 1.

The event, which was due to be held on May 18, will take place at number 5 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2 (part of the National Gallery, to the right of the Clare Street Gallery entrance).

People can drop in on the day between 1pm and 7pm to find out more about the wide range of volunteering opportunities available at the organisation.

Kevin Smyth, chief executive of Aware, said that with the impact of the recession and the fact that depression is such a common condition, the organisation's support services are busier than ever.

For more information, come along on the day, phone 6617211 or visit [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie)