

Words By **ALEX JACKSON**
Photos by **IAIN GARRETT**

Tool Kits At The Ready



Constantine and Andrew share a joke

DOWN the end of a dusty lane in Temple Cowley lies a treasure trove of cars, machinery and mechanics. Standing tall in overalls and toolkit by his side, Andrew Williamson is ready to get his hands dirty.

Since the summer of 2010, Andrew has been busy picking up the finest of tips and advice from a number of mechanics based at J and H Cox Ltd. His role today is to check the oil and put in place a new part in no other than his support worker's car, which means the pressure is on.

Support worker Constantine Ngigi was responsible for getting Andrew involved and encouraging him to test his communication and technical skills. Andrew, with his red peak cap masking most of his face gets to work with an array of equipment being unravelled. We first see the spanner followed closely by the trim tools and screwdrivers as Andrew looks on with confidence and enthusiasm.

"I always enjoy getting my hands dirty and really like lots of different cars. I have been learning lots of skills and would love to do this as a job one day," said Andrew, who is supported by the Ridgeway's Social Care Division.

There is a sense of great rapport between Andrew and his fellow mechanics and he spends many a fond day

keeping his tool kit occupied or observing others at work. Constantine said: "He always wears his overalls with great pride and in all the years I have worked with him since 2004 I have never seen him this energetic and enthusiastic about any project.

"He is learning a lot of practical skills and the sessions occupy his time very productively. It is something quite new and different for him to be involved with and he clearly revels in this."

Andrew tells of how one day he would like to do this as a job and talks of his interest in buses. There is the hope that the garage will offer him a formal work placement and there maybe future opportunities from this informal work.

"Andrew gets a great deal of satisfaction from this and there may be the chance for an official placement in the near future. All the guys know him well and he has gained such confidence both in fixing loose parts and changing the oil through to his communication skills," added Constantine.

