

My degree and my PGCE

I studied an HND and a science degree in business information technology at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education now The University of Gloucestershire from 1994 to 1997 it was quite practical and gave me lots of experience that should have easily transferred to the work place. Each year had 12 modules for three years to make the science degree. Me and two fellow students did a project with the local police as part of my HND which appeared in the local paper.

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Mega safety drive



Test drive: Sergeant Mike Jacka and P-c Simon Mills with Ian Jewson, left, Reg Bamard and Mark Beniman, who helped devise the computer programme

WEST police are discouraging potential "joyriders" by using a high-tech programme to show youngsters how to drive safely. Young motorists are invited to choose the right options to steer their way through highway hazards on a computer screen. The computer package was specially filmed in Gloucestershire by the county's police video unit with...

By Beverley Hawes

...cers playing the part of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. It has been put together by Sergeant Mike Jacka, a former traffic officer now based at Cheltenham police control room and P-c Simon Mills, of Chipping Campden. The computer programme, which...

...youth groups, is aimed at youngsters aged from 17 to 19 and was developed by students at Gloucestershire College and Art and Technology.

Skills

Three years ago the two officers launched a pre-driver training course for under-17s to teach youngsters basic theory and practical driving

Yesterday P-c Mills said that teenagers who used the computer programme would be advised by police officers and on how well they had done. "We want to instill some good driving habits in young people before they get any bad habits," he said. Any group of young drivers wanting to take advantage of the computer programme can contact P-c...

Holiday hopes hit a hitch

MULTI-million pound plans for a huge holiday complex at disused...



Landlord Bruce Sedgwick

By George, it's time to for a bit of patriotism

PATRIOTIC publican Bruce Sedgwick is saluting St George today in a bid to bring England's patron saint back into popular culture. He feels St Patrick and St Andrew should not be the only symbolic figureheads to be celebrated in Britain. Throughout today's St George's day the King Edward VII pub in Longlevens, Gloucester, is displaying a St George's flag and customers will be tucking into good old bangers and mash. Mr Sedgwick, who originates from Middlesbrough, said: "These days St Patrick is better known in Gloucester than St George. "It's time people here remembered their heritage, at least for a day."

I also worked at the university as a night porter working at one of the campuses with halls of residence from 11 at night to 5 in the morning seven nights on, seven nights off for nearly the entire time I studied there.

The grades I got from my degree weren't great but as someone once said it's the experience not just the grades which as I mentioned for me included working for the college as well as studying there.

When I graduated I went to live in Hong Kong for four years and taught English as a foreign language and business English for most of that time, I then lived in Thailand for 18 months and taught at a university. I then came back to England and studied for a PCET PGCE specialising in ESOL at Greenwich University and graduated in 2003 when I was 35 years old. I then worked at Hammersmith and West London College for a further two years before moving to France for 18 months to be with my family again. We then moved back to Thailand for nearly a year where I taught English again but I developed health problems, my eyelids kept closing involuntarily so I came back to England in 2007 to get treatment.

I claimed benefits to live on, I had rarely claimed benefits in my adult life before then but in truth I haven't really been off benefits since although my wife and children came to live in England for four years from 2009 to 2013 which helped me a lot and I managed to volunteer at the Science Museum for most of that time. I also looked for work but I'm not sure if it was because we were living in a time of austerity but I never got replies to my applications, no matter what I was applying for I remained unsuccessful the entire time all those four years and for years afterwards as well, although to show how unfair the world of work can be to people like me I can say that I volunteered successfully for three years as a tour guide and curatorial archiver and I was offered a master's degree in intercultural communication at Birkbeck in 2011 which I decided not to study and a PGCE in secondary education at Middlesex University in 2009 but it was a conditional offer and I decided not to take the place as I didn't think the conditions were fair they basically wanted my original GCSEs in English and maths which I didn't have so it was conditional on me passing their equivalency tests.

Mark Benniman 2019