



Happy New Year to you all, welcome to the spring term edition of our newsletter! Hopefully everyone has recovered from the excesses of the Christmas holiday by now, but isn't dieting and de-toxing a tedious process?????

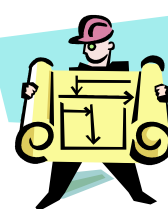
The Project is starting the year on a high note having had such a good year in 2010 and with plans afoot to concentrate on our long awaited redevelopment, 2011 promises to be a year of great progress.

Ruth,

Project Manager

New Build Update

Although planning permission had been viewed favourably for the extension at the Glenfield Project (to provide a temporary home for the Melton Project whilst our own site is re-developed), it was made subject to conditions laid down by the Highways Department. This had significantly hampered progress due to delays in obtaining satisfactory agreements with those parties affected by the conditions. However, I am very pleased to be able to confirm that this agreement has now been signed. This allows us to re-apply for planning consent which could be granted within eight weeks. Our firm of architects will manage the tender process for the building works and are aiming to be ready to start as soon as the planning consent is granted. With an estimated build time of six months, we anticipate moving to Glenfield in the Autumn. Meanwhile, the Melton Project will have another conservatory added to the existing build to provide the much needed additional space until we can move. Once we vacate 66 Dalby Road, the bulldozers will move in and demolish the bungalow to allow for the much anticipated rebuild! Our architects are already working on designing new accommodation which will include six en-suite bedrooms, separate lounges and dining rooms and a sensory room as well as the kitchen, bathroom, laundry facilities and office space. If everything goes to plan we could be back in Melton before the summer holidays of 2012. It sounds like a long way off, but time really does fly when there is so much going on. We will keep you informed every step of the way! Please be assured that the only change will be the address; we will continue to provide the same level of service, to the same high standards at all times!



Our Mini-bus



Regular visitors to the Project will have seen our mini-bus parked on the drive when not in use. Perhaps you will have noticed the faded pink it had become as the paintwork lost its lustre? Well, no more! Thanks to a very generous offer made by Adrian Smith, a local tree surgeon whose son used to attend the Project, and the hard work of Chris at "Autoglam" in Melton, our mini-bus has been lovingly restored to its former glory! Adrian spotted the bus when out one day and contacted the Project to offer to have it waxed and polished. The work was carried out by Chris at his Snow Hill site, taking four days of intensive effort with brilliant results! We now have a bright and shiny RED mini-bus to be proud of! Our sincere thanks are extended to Adrian and Chris for their generosity.

Report and Feedback from Head Office

Our Director of Care, Alyson Dunn who is based in Belfast, visited the Melton Project in November to discuss our general progress and plans. She provided us with feedback from the Service User Survey that was conducted in the first half of 2010. I am very pleased to report that this was very positive with the number of respondents being well above the average and the Project scoring over 90% in most areas. Thank you very much to those of you who completed the survey!



Ofsted Inspection

Our Ofsted Inspection took place on 30th November. Unlike schools, we are not given any notice of when an inspection will take place and so the Inspector finds us "as we are", so to speak. The Inspector spent most of the day at the Project, looking at and assessing our management of the Project and service provision and how we provide care for the young people. We have been measured against the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes and also "Organisation". We achieved "outstanding" against four of the benchmarks, "good" in one and "satisfactory" in "achieving economic wellbeing". This lower rating reflects the size and condition of the building which has been a recognised concern for some time. Overall we maintained our "good" rating. Copies of the report for young people are being sent out to families and should anyone like to have a copy of the full report, please let us know – we would be happy to send one out to

Sahil's Skydive and Award

You will all be aware of Sahil's skydive back in August 2010 which he did to raise money for new sensory room equipment. This was a fantastic achievement in its own right, but he was able to raise a grand total of £1,968.26. As a result of his achievement, his teacher nominated him for Oadby and Wigston Borough's "Young Citizen of the Year" award in which he came joint second. Sahil was presented with a certificate at the ceremony, held on Wednesday 6th January, to mark this and his photo was taken with him presenting the cheque to Project staff who also attended.



Christmas Celebrations

The young people and Project participated in St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival again in December. They were all encouraged and supported to make their own decoration for the tree which was displayed in the church over the long weekend, which coincided with the Festival of Cribs and the local Victorian Christmas Fair. This was a lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

Our local Fire Service once again sent their Santa to present the young people who were here with their Christmas gifts. The photos speak for themselves and it was obvious that his visit was well received!!!!

Deaf Action Leicester organised a production of "Shiny Signing Star" at Leicester Cathedral in the middle of December. This was a new nativity play presented by the famous Dave Benson Philips, sung by a Gospel choir and incorporated lots of signing. The young people who attended with staff had a fantastic time and were so pleased to have their photo taken with Dave Benson Philips whom they recognised from his Makaton Nursery Rhyme DVD. The production was filmed by the BBC and was shown on their "See Hear" programme during December. We are in the process of obtaining a copy of the DVD through Deaf Action Leicester.



Open Day

We held our annual Open Day in December when we opened up the Project to visitors from the local community. Despite sending out dozens of invitations, the response was disappointing with very few people attending. The weather was bad and there were high levels of sickness around, so this might have contributed towards the low turn out. Fortunately, with the help of most families, we were able to sell a lot of raffle tickets prior to the Open Day, raising £360 in ticket sales for the Friends of Melton Project. Prizes went as far afield as Northern Ireland and Manchester and were very much appreciated by the winners. A huge thank you to all who sold and purchased tickets! We are reconsidering the timing of the Open Day for the future, because Christmas is such a busy time. Late June and September are alternatives to December.

Lifetime achievement celebrations

Nevin Ringland and his wife Irene Sloan are the founders of Praxis Care. They both have backgrounds in Social Work and care in Northern Ireland and recognised a need to support people in the community, recovering from mental health issues and instigated a befriending scheme. That was thirty years ago and since this time, Praxis Care has gone from strength to strength, extending the services provided to dementia care, learning disabilities, mental health and acquired brain injury across a variety of settings from work skills to full time residential. Nevin has remained at the helm of the Organisation throughout this time and in recognition of his services to social care, he was nominated for a Lifetime Achievement Award. Against stiff competition, Nevin won this prestigious accolade and was presented with his award at a ceremony in London in November. Congratulations to Nevin on this fantastic achievement.



Friend of Melton Project Group (FOMP)

FOMP has continued to raise funds and awareness in the local community. Meetings are held every couple of months and are very informal, taking place at group member's homes and lasting between one and two hours. We are very keen to encourage as much family participation in this as possible which gives you a greater say in how funds are raised and subsequently spent to improve facilities and opportunities for your young people. Items currently being discussed are plans for a sponsored walk up Snowdon, another "Curry and Quiz Night" and the rescheduling of our annual Open Day. We are looking at the possibility of providing short residential holidays and purchasing a summer house for the garden with any funds raised. If you would like any more information about the group, meeting dates and its plans, please do not hesitate to contact the Project.

The next meeting of Friends of Melton Project will be the Annual General Meeting. A summary of events, activities and fundraising will be provided and you will have the opportunity to either vote in new members of the committee or vote to keep the existing members there! We need your support as always and would really appreciate more involvement from parents. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March 2011 at Ruth's house, 70 Baldocks Lane, Melton. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Please make a note of the date in your diary and confirm attendance nearer the time!

The London Marathon sponsorship opportunity: - a message from Kev Jones

On April 17th I will be running in the London Marathon and as a resident in Long Clawson, I am supporting the very worthwhile work that the Melton Project delivers. I became aware of this project through my neighbour and a stand which the Project had at the Long Clawson Fun Day last year.

I am following a strict training schedule which involves running a various number of miles and speeds five days a week, Sunday is the day when I do the long run which increases a couple of miles each week. The maximum long run distance before the marathon is a couple of weeks before and 22 miles.

I am hoping to attract as much sponsorship as possible from friends, family and work colleagues which will hopefully include a significant donation from the company I work for. It will also be of great help if any friends of the Melton Project could also sponsor me.

I have an online sponsorship page which is run by Virgin Money who sponsor the Marathon so you can be assured this is a professional and trust worthy page.

<http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/KevJonesLondonMarathon2011>

If you are able to sponsor me and support the Melton Project it is very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support

Kev Jones

