



# BUNGALOW NEWS

*Welcome to our third newsletter.*

*It's been such a long and cold winter that I can hardly believe how the time has flown since Christmas. At least we can look forward to the longer days and a little more warmth in the air now that spring finally appears to have sprung! At the Project we are looking forward to planning for the summer holidays, so as always, we want your views and opinions on how we can make this a positive and fun-filled time for all. We would also like to ask for your support in some of the fundraising schemes which are planned, and even underway. Every thing that we raise is used towards outings and activities enjoyed by all the Young People spending their short breaks at the Melton Project.*

**Ruth**  
**Project Manager.**

## Melton to Croatia: sponsored bike ride

You might have read in the Melton Times about a sponsored bicycle ride to Croatia in aid of Rainbows and the Melton Project. This is being organised by Sean Johnson and Donna Tanner.

They set off on Easter Monday from Melton and will cycle across France, Monaco, Italy and Slovenia before reaching Croatia. Their return journey will take a slightly different route to include Germany and will take around four months to complete.

Hopefully we will be able to follow their progress as the plan is to keep a "blog" throughout the trip.

Everything that the intrepid pair raises will be split equally between the Project and Rainbows.

We have sent sponsorship forms out with this newsletter should you or your family and friends like to make a contribution to this mammoth fundraising effort.



## Parent's Liaison Meeting

We recently invited parents to attend a "Parent's Liaison Meeting" at which we had planned to discuss events, activities, plans (including those for the building) and setting up a fundraising group. Unfortunately, the meeting was cancelled as most parents declined the invitation. Although I realise that your evenings are precious and that it can be hard to find sitters for your Young People, it is so important that we keep you up to speed with what is going on within the Project. The Newsletter goes some way towards this, but we would like to share more of what we do with you.

One of the agenda items was to be the setting up of a fundraising group, consisting of parents, staff and volunteers. This would allow us to increase our efforts on this front and keep fundraising at Project level. I hope to be able to invite you all to another Parent's Liaison Meeting in the next few months and so would welcome any suggestions as to time, venue and agenda items to enable us to take this forwards.



# Fundraising—what's already happened

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## Open Day

The Open Day held at the Project in December was very successful.

Several prominent members of the community including the Mayor and Young Mayor attended and the raffle raised an impressive £304.

Many thanks to those who donated prizes for the raffle.



## 'Make it Happen'

The "Make it Happen" fund also donated generously to the Project at an award ceremony at Ragdale Hall in December.

They very kindly donated a cheque for £450 which will be spent on high quality garden furniture and now that the shops and garden centres have their summer wares on sale we can track something suitable down.

## 'Trumpton'

Those of you who live in and around Melton will be aware of the Fire Service's annual Trumpton collection which takes place in the run-up to Christmas.

They raised several thousand pounds last Christmas and invited local community groups and charities to apply for donations of items which Trumpton could purchase on their behalf.

The Melton Project requested the purchase of a sandpit and a cube puzzle toy which were presented to us at an award ceremony held at the Working Men's Club in Melton. We were represented at this award ceremony by one of our Young People, supported by two staff.



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## Staff changes

There have been few staff changes in recent months, but we have said "good-bye" to Lorraine who has been working on our sessional bank over the last year. She leaves us to concentrate on her new business venture, supporting people in the community. Those of you who knew Tony Barber will be pleased to hear that he is returning on our sessional bank shortly.

The core staff team has welcomed Lisa Richardson as a Project Worker. She has worked with children with learning disabilities on a voluntary basis previously and has settled into her role really well. We have also appointed to the vacant Team Leader role and hope to have our new recruit in post by June.

Silke has now officially transferred to Glenfield on a permanent basis and expects her "new arrival" any time now. We all wish her the very best of luck!

Donna Withers has been absent from the Project since October due to her pregnancy. Her baby is also due in April and our best wishes extend to her too!!

Justine Hunt also gave birth to a baby boy at the end of March.

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## Family fun day

Also on the fundraising front, the staff at the Project are planning to run a tombola stall at the Long Clawson Fun Day to be held in the village on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

The Fun Day hosts lots of events, stalls and activities and promises to be a lively, fun day out for all the family.

They are providing us with a stall free of charge in recognition of the work and charitable status of the Project.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for donations of non-perishable goods or gifts for the tombola. A good show will generate better ticket sales and takings and the fundraising which we do at this time of year is always spent on summer holiday activities and outings for the Young People.

Your support in this will be very much appreciated, but doesn't have to be in the form of donations – if you would like to take part, please contact us!

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## Ofsted inspection report

We received a visit from our new Ofsted Inspector in February. He arrived at 2pm on a Friday afternoon and stayed until 9pm, so was able to observe the Young People present through the evening, having spent the afternoon inspecting our paperwork, files, policies and audit reports. We are not informed when an Inspector is to make a visit, so we do not have time to prepare and they can see us as we work on any other day.

The resulting report was very positive with some complimentary remarks made about how well the staff team worked together for the benefit of the Young People. The building was also commented upon, in that it no longer provides us with the most suitable environment, but we have long been aware of this and have plans for a rebuild. The overall rating was given as "Good", which is pleasing and an improvement on the last inspection! If any parent would like to see a copy of the Inspection Report, please let me know.