



# BUNGALOW NEWS

*Welcome ... Its' Newsletter time again and I find myself looking at cloudy skies in August! So much for the long hot summer that we were promised! Still, at least it's been warmer this year and not quite so wet. Although the weather hasn't been consistent, it has not deterred the staff team and plans for the summer holiday trips and events have gone ahead as planned with lots of the young people enjoying the different activities offered. More of this in the newsletter itself! Long promised changes are also afoot at the Project with huge progress being made over the last few months with our plans to re-develop the Melton Project to provide an improved service in better accommodation for all of our young people. Also, in this newsletter, I would ask all of you to consider giving a little of your time and support with developing a "Friends of Melton" group to support our fund-raising activities which directly benefit the young people accessing the Project. And finally, although it seems a long way off at the moment, did you realise, that at the time of writing this newsletter, there are only 139 shopping days left until Christmas??????*

Ruth

Project Manager

## Inspection

We had an Ofsted inspection carried out by our designated Inspector on 24<sup>th</sup> July. As all of our inspections are now unannounced, the Inspector sees us as we are, without any time to prepare beforehand. He met several members of staff and spent some time with the young people present as well as inspecting a considerable amount of paperwork. Ofsted measures us against six different benchmarks and I am very pleased to report that we received "outstanding" in four out of the six with one "good" and one "satisfactory". The last relates to the environment, namely the building, which we are all painfully aware, is no longer suitable for the needs of the young people who receive their short breaks with us. However, the Inspector recognised that we are making progress with our plans to re-develop, but that this is an unfortunately slow process. Our overall rating remains "good".



## Swine Flu

Praxis Care has taken the threat of a swine flu pandemic very seriously and consequently, we have all been drawing up Contingency Plans in the event of this affecting the Project and our staffing levels. A letter and a leaflet produced by our Head Office are being sent out with this news letter, providing some information on what actions we might need to take. Levels of swine flu are falling at present, but are expected to rise again later in the autumn. We will endeavour to continue to provide a normal service to you all, but of course we cannot predict how we might be affected. Should your young people display the symptoms of swine flu whilst in our care, we would need to send them home as with any other illness. Our Contingency Plans are available to view at the Project, but the Disabled Children's Team at Social Services will make any decision regarding priority of care in the event of there being a staffing shortage. This might be a timely reminder to send in some basic cold relief or Paracetamol medication with your young people!

## Parent's Liaison Meeting

Our last scheduled Parent's Liaison Meeting was, unfortunately, cancelled. Our next meeting is scheduled to take place here at the Melton Project on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. I extend an invitation to all parents in the hopes that the attendance will be good. Agenda items will include our plans to re-develop our building and the move to Glenfield that this will entail, forming a "Friends of Melton" group and updates on events within the Project. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact me with them, - this meeting is for you after all! I would appreciate it if you could let me know whether you intend to attend or not to enable us to cater for appropriate numbers.



## Building Plans

Our Assistant Director, Will Bassett, wrote to all parents recently to inform you of the plans currently in place to allow us to move forward with our re-development at Melton. Planning permission is being sought to extend the Glenfield site to accommodate the Melton Project on a temporary basis. This will enable us to demolish the present Melton Project building and re-build on the same land. Once the re-build is completed, we will move back to Melton. The new building will be larger, with the plans being to offer more bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities, a dedicated sensory room and two lounges. We are keen to reassure every body that our service will remain unaffected by the moves, with The Disabled Children's Team at Social Services being fully aware and in support of our plans. School transport will continue to provide their services during term time. We will also continue to keep you fully informed on the progress of the buildings and extend an invitation to view the site once it is ready. Should you want any input into this, please contact me at any time. The build plans will also feature as an agenda item at the Parent's Liaison Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September which would be a useful forum for sharing information and ideas.



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## Summer Events and Activities

The young people have been able to participate in and enjoy lots of activities during the summer holidays. The garden has been well maintained and lots of use has been made of the new sand pit, swing, trampoline, paddling pool and garden benches, especially on the fine evenings we've had. Young people have also been offered craft and baking activities within the Project, but we have had lots of successful trips out and about too. Three trips have been made to the Lincolnshire coast to a small village called Anderby Creek. Besides two small caravan parks and a tea-shop, there is very little there, but the beach is wide, golden and stretches for miles, giving the young people room to play and run in relative safety. It has been a popular spot for the Project for years and long may the general public remain in ignorance of its charms!!!! In addition to this, there have been two trips to Wickstead Park, one to the Fire Station Open Day and one to Twycross Zoo as well as visits to parks and picnic lunches galore! What's more, there are still two and a half weeks of the holidays left to go and there are plans in place to keep the momentum going!

LOTS OF PHOTOS HERE!!!!



# Fundraising

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## Long Clawson Fun Day

We attended the Long Clawson Fun Day as planned in June, equipped with a well stocked Tombola stall and willing helpers, intending to raise funds for the activities and outings planned for the summer holidays. Although the day started off very quietly, by lunchtime, things were in full swing and the stall attracted dozens of visitors. The Fun Day was the first one held in the village, but was well attended with lots of attractions to keep visitors interested, and went on well into the night with a band and bar in the Village Hall. As a charity, we were not charged for our stall so all of the £235 that we took came back to the Project and we would like to thank the organisers of the Fun Day for their support and the loan of the gazebo which kept us dry! The Fun Day itself was an excellent event which we hope will grow year on year and we would recommend this as a good day out with the family.



## Melton to Croatia: sponsored bike ride

Sponsorship forms were sent out with the last newsletter, informing you of a sponsored cycle ride to Croatia being undertaken on behalf of The Melton Project and Rainbows. Sean and Donna have now returned, with the cycle ride not having gone quite to plan! Sean's bike broke in two in the South Of France and would have cost too much to repair. Rather than head home straight away, the intrepid pair sold the other bike and hitched to Croatia! They then hitched back along the route they had originally planned to take through Germany, returning to Melton a month earlier than scheduled. Although the trip required an urgent "Plan B" they are still keen to collect any sponsorship/donations that people are willing to make, so I would urge you to dig out your forms and collect any sponsorship money that you have been promised. Any funds can be passed on to Sean through the Project if you put the money and



## Open Day

Our Open Day will be held in December again this year. Although no plans have yet been confirmed, we will almost certainly hold a raffle with the main prize being a Christmas Hamper and invitations will go out to local groups, businesses and everyone connected to the Project in some way. The staff team have always put on a good show, laying on food and drinks and showing visitors around. We would be very pleased to receive support in any form from parents/families to help us to continue with the success of our Open Days. More news on this will be shared nearer the time.



## 'Make It Happen'

The £450 donated to the Project by the "Make it Happen" fund and Ragdale Hall was spent as planned on some new garden furniture. We have purchased two teak benches and a coffee table and have sited these in a lovely sunny spot where the young people and staff can sit and watch the activity in the garden. The sand pit and swing have also been replaced this summer and have been well used by many of the young people.



## Fundraising Group

In a previous newsletter, I broached the subject of developing a fundraising group which would consist of parents, staff and volunteers. The Glenfield Project successfully operates a "Friends of Glenfield" group which is run according to guidelines laid down for groups which support and fundraise on behalf of an organisation. I would be very keen to see a similar group organised for the Melton Project to increase the level of input and involvement from parents and to continue to motivate the staff team in fundraising. Although a small amount of cash can be kept at scheme level to be spent on activities and outings, any larger donations or those received as cheques must be lodged with our Head Office and although it is "ear-marked" for our use, it can be a slow process in getting this back and we can't always get this in time to make the most of an opportunity. A "Friends of Melton" group would only need to convene around three times per year to plan events, delegate tasks and monitor income and expenditure through our own bank account. Please, please, please give this some thought and any interested parents or family members, let me know. This will be discussed more fully at the Parent's Liaison Meeting in September.

