Issue 10

September'11

MELTON PROJECT

PRAXIS CARE

Friends of Melton Project

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. Yet again, the summer has gone in an instant and we are already beginning to plan activities and events to see us into the new year! As always, the summer months have been some of our busiest with a host of extra trips taking place thanks in part to the additional funds made available through the Friends of Melton Project. We have also branched out a little with some very successful Outreach for one young person. The next few months will be very important in defining the future of the Project as the renewal of our contract with Leicestershire County Council is tendered for. We are very optimistic about this being successful, but please feel free to lobby your Social Workers on our behalf!!!!!

Ruth,
Project Manager

Snowdon Hike

On Saturday 25th June a group of staff and family members hiked up Snowdon, in extremely unseasonal weather, to raise funds for the Friends of Melton Project. Following the untimely death of Cheveze the month before, the hike was dedicated to his memory and his father and brother joined the trip. The whole group made it to the summit despite mist and constant drizzle and rain restricting the views across the beautiful scenery! To date, £781 has been received in sponsorship with a considerable sum still outstanding. Our thanks go to Louise Blick for participating, but also for arranging for T-shirts to be printed with our logo which drew the attention of other walkers. We'll let you know the final figure once all the sponsorship is collected.

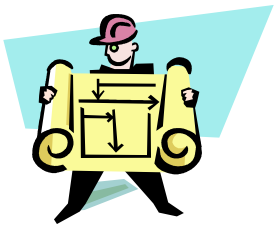
Tribute to Cheveze Wiltshire

Cheveze, or Vez, as he was affectionately known, had been coming to the Melton Project for over eight years when he passed away very suddenly on May 20th 2011. He was known and loved for his mischief and curiosity and he always brought a smile to the faces of those who worked with him and has been sorely missed since. We continue to find toys around the building that have been "Vezied", dismantled and re-arranged with magnets as a constant reminder of the frustrated engineer that he was! Our thoughts and sympathy go to his family who have been through such a traumatic period of time. Vez might be gone, but he will not be forgotten.

London Marathon

Back in April, Kev Jones ran the London Marathon and in doing so, raised funds for us. The final grand total was a huge £2588.49 and at the recent Friends of Melton Project meeting, pictures were taken of Kev presenting the cheque to Peter Huzar, Chairperson and Ruth Harrison, Project Manager. This was a fantastic achievement and we are very grateful to Kev for seeking sponsorship for us. Kev is keen to repeat the experience (!!!!!!!!!) and he will find out in October, whether or not his application has been successful. A huge vote of thanks goes to Kev and we wish him luck for the next one!

Building Update



For several years now, Ofsted have been indicating that we needed more communal space for the young people to move around within the building and in late June and early July we had an additional conservatory built on to the existing one to provide an extra room. This has proved to be very valuable space as we have been able to leave table top activities out and come back to them later or move the furniture to the sides and create a dance floor/disco or just somewhere else to sit and contemplate!

Plans for our complete make-over and rebuild have been submitted to Melton Borough Council in order to have them in place on renewal of contracts, should the tender process be successful. The new plans incorporate six en-suite bedrooms, two lounges and dining rooms and a sensory room and retain a good portion of the garden space which is so important to us. In the meantime, the plans for the Glenfield extension have been modified very slightly and we are just waiting for the green light to go ahead with this.

Summer activities

With the support of additional funds made available by the Friends of Melton Project, we have been able to offer a wide range of outings and activities over the summer holidays. There has rarely been a day when the mini-bus has been idle, with trips to Anderby Creek, Matlock Baths and the Heights of Abraham, West Midlands Safari Park, Ferry Meadows, Rutland Water and the Butterfly Railway Heritage Centre at Ripley in Derbyshire. Shorter or more local trips have included trips to the swimming pool, cinema and local parks and beauty spots for walks and picnics. The young people all seem to have enjoyed the trips and have also taken advantage of activities within the Project such as pizza making, creating a disco, arts and crafts, games, paddling pool (when the weather permitted!) and the outdoor space in general!

Forthcoming events and plans

Fun Days in October

With a very healthy bank balance we are now looking forward to spending some of these funds to benefit the young people. The Friends of Melton Project has agreed to fund two Fun Days in the **October half term week**. We organised our first Fun Day back in the Easter holidays when seven young people were able to attend. The Fun Day was held away from the Project to ensure that there was no impact on the service provision here, but was open to those in at the time. We would hope to be able to run the next Fun Days on a similar basis and offer places for around eight young people on each day. There will be lots of themed activities, games and an entertainer. Snacks and drinks will be provided, with young people needing to bring a packed lunch. We aim to provide a 1:1 staffing ratio, but parents/carers are welcome to stay and there will be no cost to families. Please see the attached survey – I would be very grateful for your input on this, especially in the planning stages, to gauge whether or not this additional service would meet needs. This will be followed up by a survey of those families who use the Fun Days and will provide feedback on its success and usefulness.

Open Day

This year's Open Day is to take place on **Tuesday 1st November**. We are avoiding the Christmas period this year, because we are all so busy then and we are hoping to make the most of the "lull before the storm"! As it's so close to Halloween and just before Bonfire Night, these two events will be our theme. The Project will be open for visitors to come and look round, meet the staff and chat about the service we provide and what we do! We will be holding a raffle with the main prize being a hamper of goodies for the perfect Bonfire Night celebrations! Some raffle tickets are being enclosed with this newsletter in the hope that you will be able to sell them amongst family and friends in support of the Project and the work we do. Should you wish to donate something for the hamper or an alternative raffle prize, please send it in to the Project as soon as possible.

Christmas Party

We have decided to host a Christmas Party for all of our young people where parents and siblings will be welcome to join the fun. The provisional date for this is **Sunday 11th December** and will be scheduled around tea time to include a buffet, visit from Santa etc, etc, etc. More details to follow once a venue has been booked.

Meal and Quiz Night

The first event undertaken by the Friends of Melton Project was a meal and quiz night held at a local Indian restaurant. It was a huge success with everyone enjoying the meal, quiz and raffle and we have been asked, on many occasions, when we will be holding another one. We are hoping to repeat the success and hold the next one in **March 2012**, returning to the same restaurant. There will only be around sixty tickets available and they sell out quickly, so please book as soon as possible once the date is announced!

Facebook

With the growing popularity of social networking sites across the internet, it has been decided to set up a page on Facebook. Most of you will have heard of this, even if you do not use it yourself. We will use the site to raise awareness of the Melton Project and support for the Friends of Melton Project and keep you all updated with plans, events and progress. We will ***not*** place young people's photos on this site without express prior permission from the persons with legal responsibility. Once the page is open, we will let you know how to access it – please feel free to comment and feedback on it!

NEWSFLASH

PLEASE USE YOUR VOTE!

Praxis Care is celebrating it's 30th Anniversary this year. One event to mark this has been a Service users Competition with a £100 first prize. One of our young people, Billy Keogan has been shortlisted as one of the final twelve to win. The winner will decide by a public vote. Please show your support by visiting Praxis Care's website www.praxisprovides.com and clicking on the link to the Service User competition to cast your vote!