

STAR CLUB

NEWSLETTER



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By Members

For Members

Special Open Day
Issue
November 2008

The Great and the Good Gather



Bishop Paterson



Mayor of Douglas

What do the following have in common - Bishop Robert Paterson, The Mayor of Douglas, DHSS management and mental health professionals? They and many others, all made time in their busy lives to visit the STAR Club on our Open Day, November 19th. Some of our guests may have visited 26-27 Derby Square in the past, but the present day Club is continually evolving to meet the needs of its members. 'Flexibility' is the watchword of the service provider, PRAXIS Care and the success achieved by their dedicated team led by James Tahsin working in partnership with Club members has totally transformed the former Douglas Day Centre. Many Open Day visitors spoke of the welcoming, relaxed atmosphere at the Club: indeed, it is this element that makes members think of it as a home from home, where, to quote a well used but truthful cliché, 'everybody knows your name'.

STAR is an acronym for **Steps To Aid Recovery**. Our Open Day was a major 'STAR Club Production' with members heavily involved at every stage of the planning, promotion and preparation of the event and of course were much in evidence on the day itself hosting the occasion in tandem with and supported by the PRAXIS team. PRAXIS encourages members to play an active role in the Club, which indeed 'aids recovery' by boosting self-esteem and confidence, which we all need to enjoy life in our community and society.

Successful fundraising is a challenging and vital goal for all charities to achieve; that the PRAXIS team and members have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically, was there on our Open Day for everyone to see: new furniture, extensive re-decoration, a Playstation and DVD-based home cinema system were all much-admired by our guests. The montage of photographs in the games room provided a literal snapshot of the diverse range of outings, activities and socialising opportunities enjoyed by members, and also featured high-profile fundraising events such as Club member Fiona Gell's inspirational decision to have her head shaved to promote awareness of the Club and at the same time, boost its coffers. Her sacrifice caught the public's imagination and in consequence raised over £650. I noted that a number of the ladies present on the Open Day, who after seeing the photos taken of Fiona at T.J.'s Hair Rooms, were not only filled with admiration for her, but subconsciously touched their own hair, perhaps imagining themselves in a similar situation!



Bethany's Star Club Cake



Some of our visiting MHKs

KIND COMMENTS ON THE FOOD

Lunch plus tea and cakes were provided on the day and many visitors were kind enough to make kind comments on the excellent food.

To all our guests, on behalf of everyone at the STAR Club, thank you for coming to see us on our Open Day - it was a great pleasure to welcome you and we hope you enjoyed your visit. We are very proud of our club and what we have achieved. It is said that the past is a signpost to the future: the members and the PRAXIS team will together ensure that our past success will guide us in the direction of an even more exciting and rewarding future. Our 'STAR' will continue to shine brightly in Derby Square!

Text by Stephen Moyce. Editing by David Sharpe.