

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



STORIES JANUARY 2017

Happy New Year, and welcome to **Stories**, the new name for the Style Acre newsletter for people we support, families, carers and staff, that keeps you up to date with what's going on around the charity and the activities of the people we support.

Awards success

It was an excellent evening for Style Acre at Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP) Oxfordshire Care Awards 2016 in November. Style Acre had nominations in three categories, and won all three – more than any care provider in Oxfordshire! Congratulations to Support Manager Sam Cleary who won the Oxfordshire Care Hero award, and Sarah Jones who won the Community Services Worker award for her work at Wantage Market Garden project. Style Acre also won the Employer of the Year award. Well done Sam and Sarah for making us proud, and all our great staff who make Style Acre a great place to work.



Parties & Pantomimes



December saw the usual round of keenly anticipated Christmas parties right across Style Acre. The Supported Living Christmas Party took place on Friday 9th at Didcot Civic Hall. The table centrepiece competition attracted many entries, tenants and staff had worked hard to produce the fantastic designs. Congratulations **Regent Gardens, 4 Mowbray Road** and **Bryan Way** who won first, second & third prizes respectively. Here's Regent tenant Ben showing off their winning entry - look closely and you'll spot ingredients for Christmas dinner amongst the foliage! Thank you everyone for your brilliant designs and also for your contributions to the wonderful bring & share buffet we all enjoyed on the evening.

Pantomime trips are really popular with Style Acre folk, and Christmas 2016 was busier than ever with trips to a number of different productions. On 29th November a group from **Turnstyle** saw *Cinderella* at Oxford Playhouse, and bumped into another group from **T2** there! Everyone enjoyed the show, tucked into ice creams and also caught sweets thrown into the audience by 'Squeaky', Cinderella's pet mouse.

Stonehill Community Garden

T2 users Dean and Ryan have recently been getting out into the fresh air to work at Stonehill Community Garden, Drayton. It's quite a new venture within the village, and Dean and Ryan have been helping with the setting up, including building a pizza oven. Another project was the construction of a large raised bed and here is Dean (centre) with Style Acre Job Coach Philippa Rallings and Stonehill's gardener and organiser of the project, Richard Seamark, pictured with the finished piece.



All the fun of the Fair

Amongst the many Michaelmas fairs each autumn up and down the UK is the Banbury Chartered fair. It takes place each year on the streets of central Banbury. So, with a funfair right on the doorstep, a group from **SABRe** wrapped up warm and headed out for an evening of thrills and excitement on the rides. Here they are having a great time on the Waltzer.

Social Group in Prison!

Reading Prison closed in 2013 and now visitors can tour the grade II listed building, including the cell once occupied by its most famous inmate, Oscar Wilde. **Style Acre Social Group** had an informative day at the prison in October... In spite of the photo showing Turnstyle staff member Carol Choules handcuffed to a bed frame, everyone was let out at the end of the visit!



Going to prison! From left to right: James, Phillip, Peter, John, Ryan, Chris, Otto and Martin



Geraint & Omi-Vista



Having had a bit of a break, **Carterton** tenant Geraint has recently re-acquainted himself with the wonderful Omi-Vista projector system at Turnstyle Studio, Howbery Park. Here's Geraint pictured left, enjoying the session. There are lots of themes to choose from with this equipment - see IT Manager Keith Thornton's round up for details of some new ones just becoming available, and how to book.

In a complete contrast to the hi-tech Omi-Vista experience, Geraint is pictured right in a totally different setting, getting out and about and enjoying the ducks on a trip to the picturesque Cotswold town of **Burford**.



Mates & Dates Ball

The annual *Mates & Dates* Ball was held on 12th November, and **Regent Garden's** tenants Anup, Martin, James, Ben and Ruth were there with staff team members Michele and Lisa. There was an enjoyable dinner, and dancing to both a live band and a disco. Everyone had a lovely evening, and here are Anup and Michele, dressed ready for the grand occasion.



A week in a lovely Spanish villa

You may remember that we had a raffle of a villa in Spain for a week. Well, the winner has chosen to decline her prize! In agreement with the villa owner, we are offering families, people we support and staff the opportunity to make a private bid for this prize. Please email Philippa at pstannard@styleacre.org.uk with the value of your bid by 31 January and the highest bidder will win. The luxury villa is in the town of Orba, Spain and the offer is for 1 week. Dates available are Sat 27 May to Sat 3 June, Sat 3 June to Sat 10 June or Sat 10 June to Sat 17 June.

- *Three double bedrooms: 2 double (1 ensuite), 1 twin
- * Private pool with terraces
- *Air conditioned throughout
- *Panoramic views of Orba & Girona valleys
- *Overlooking almond trees and orange groves
- *Quiet location 20 mins drive from Javia and Denia
- *Between Alicante and Valencia
- *Easy reach of bars, restaurants and all amenities

Please note that this offer does not include flights.



Marathon Man

Here are Lisa and Christina with Simon, who has run an amazing 4 marathons to raise money for Style Acre, including the London Marathon and the Great North Run. To say 'thank you' for such a massive effort, the **Star Group** invited Simon for tea and cake. They gave him a card and Simon brought his marathon medals to show to the Star Group members.



Clearing out for Style Acre!

Over the last few years, we have teamed up with *Recycle for Good Causes* which collects unwanted items for cash to Style Acre. If you have any of the following items you no longer need, we'd be delighted if you could bring them in to one of our day hubs during February.

- **Jewellery & Watches** - in any material even if damaged or broken
- **Currency** - any coins or banknotes, UK & foreign, even if out of circulation
- **Mobile Phones, Cameras** - old film, digital and video
- **Stamps** - loose, single, albums, first day covers, collections, postcard collections
- **Gadgets** - Sat-Navs, iPods, tablets, MP3s, games, consoles & accessories, laptops

Upcoming events – for more information about our events, contact Chris Burrows on 01491 827593 or cburrows@styleacre.org.uk.

Wallingford Race Night – Friday 24th February



Wallingford Town Mayor Ros Lester will host a Race Night in aid of Style Acre. Rather than heading off to Newbury Racecourse, the night takes place in the comfort of The George Hotel, Wallingford. You'll be able to bet on up to 6 races shown on a screen, with half the takings to be shared among the winners and half donated to Style Acre. This will be a fantastic evening – especially when the odds are good, with a real chance of enjoying a windfall! Tickets are £10, which include nibbles. To reserve your space, a table or for more information contact Chris.

Adele Tribute night with Indian Meal – Thursday 16th March

Little India in Didcot is putting on a very special fundraiser for Style Acre – featuring one of the best Adele tributes around! Little India (218 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8JR), which has 5 star ratings on Trip Advisor, is hosting this Adele tribute and providing a delicious and plentiful dinner for up to 80 guests. Tickets are £30 per person. For more information, get in touch with Chris.

Take the plunge and Skydive for Style Acre – Saturday 1st July

After the success of our 2015 Skydive we will be hosting the event again at the Chiltern Airfield, Wallingford. Join us at this adrenaline-charged fundraising event. This once in a lifetime event is not to be missed - contact Chris!



Go the Extra Mile Award - This month's award goes to **Michele Williams**

What people said about Michele: She is a star assistant and a star key worker too. Michele puts 100% into the work she does, she is a very good support worker. Michele has been very supportive of both people we support and her colleagues within supported living. Michele is very popular and is in high demand to accompany people on holidays. Thanks Michele!



Don't forget to send your nominations!

We want to celebrate achievements, excellence and innovation within Style Acre. We recognise that individuals often go the extra mile and we want to thank and share with others, the outstanding contributions these individuals make. Nominees could be anyone within Style Acre who you feel has gone the extra mile! Nominations will be taken monthly and should include a short description about what the nominee has done that has made an outstanding contribution. Please also include:

Name of Nominee, Nominated by (optional), House/Service, Date

Send nominations to Bev Segesdy by second Monday of the month to: bsegesdy@styleacre.org.uk or by post to Bev at Evenlode House, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BA.

Christmas at T2



We had a lovely Christmas at **T2**, with several panto trips, two trips to Winter Wonderland in London, various parties and of course the annual delicious Christmas Dinner at T2. As ever, the Friday lunch club supported by Michele, Charlie & Kate cooked an amazing Christmas dinner which was free for everyone. Keith and Claire supported Katy Anne, Henry & Rachel to wait on the tables. Carla and the crafts group created beautiful table decorations and we had a visit from Father Christmas and one of his elves! Thank you to all who made it such a lovely occasion, with particular thanks to Michele who put so much time and effort into organising the whole thing!



As well as all their other Christmas activities, T2 also organised a large group trip to the cinema, followed by lunch and ten pin bowling. They saw the new Disney film *Moana*, then came lunch at *Hollywood Bowl* complete with Christmas crackers, plus the serious business of a ten pin bowling contest. Everyone battled it out to win the truly unique trophy crafted by T2 staff member Pete Chitty, and the overall winner was Chris B with 168 points. Well done Chris, great bowling. Pictured above are a thinly disguised James and Chris Woodley enjoying lunch, and below, Matt and Grace sporting their Christmassy head gear.

Anna Goodall



Festive goings on at SABRe



For the second year running and much like T2, **SABRe** hosted a Christmas lunch. Once again, Frances Weir who joins SABRe's weekly cooking group, assisted in preparing the meal. Thank you, Frances. Many hands made light work of peeling the vegetables. Staff can be seen here, helping plate up the delicious looking meal. And SABRe also welcomed Christmas in by partying hard! They invited friends

from T2 to join them for a fun filled day of dancing, games and food. There was a photo booth and a pin the carrot on the snowman game. Both proved very popular and here are Ben and Kayleigh, in the frame.

Charlotte Owens & Fiona Kearley





Goodbye, Cheryl

We say 'Goodbye' this month to Admin Team member Cheryl O'Connor. Cheryl leaves us in order to pursue other interests, including a plan to spend more time in France where she and her husband have a house near Bordeaux. We are really sorry to see Cheryl go, but wish her *bonne chance* for a wonderful French summer, and every success for the future.

Halloween party at Turnstyle

To mark Halloween back in October, **Turnstyle** threw a party with a fancy dress theme. Here's a picture of Mel, in costume and with her carved pumpkin. Mel and Turnstyle staff member Ady worked together to create Mel's impressive King Harold II costume, and she and her pumpkin both wore arrows to show how the unfortunate King Harold died!



Technology, with Keith Thornton

App of the month

Something a little different this month.



Many new themes have been added to the Omi-Vista overhead projection system in the Studio at Howbery Park. These include **Harry Potter**, **Postman Pat**, **Frozen**, **Toy Story**, **Disney**, **Thomas the Tank Engine**, **Ghosts** and **Steam Trains**. Why not come along and have a go? Sessions can be booked through Turnstyle (01491 827582) and if you haven't used it before and need help switching on and selecting, assistance can be provided. Keep an eye out for a new *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* theme, Abba and Queen music themes and also a new Jack in the Box theme which will all be introduced shortly.

Sally masters technology

Sally now has regular Eye Gaze sessions on Thursdays at Howbery Park and it hasn't taken her long to get to grips with using the system. She is now able to control the cursor very well using her eyes and is enjoying the challenge of many games and educational packages. Sally has also been experimenting with the Beamz music system during her visits and is relishing the chance to produce her own music. An example of Sally using Beamz can be seen to the right.



Introducing XBOX to Turnstyle users

New equipment is being installed in the Sensory Room at Turnstyle. This will allow users who are unable to benefit from using XBOX controllers to interact through the use of a controller in conjunction with a jelly bean switch. For example, the user will be able to click the button to shoot in a football game. Normal controllers can still be used if desired making this an environment where people of varying abilities can enjoy games together.