

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



STORIES **SUMMER 2017**

Taking to the Water - Style Acre 100K challenge



In September a small group of people from T2 and SABRe, Banbury are going to be taking on a 100 kilometre challenge over 3 days. We will be doing this at the end of September.

On the first day we will be cycling 68k (40 miles) from the Tea Room at Blewbury to Port Meadow in Oxford and back again. The next day we will canoe 12k (7.5 miles) from Oxford to Abingdon and on the last

day we will walk 21k (12 miles) from Abingdon to Wallingford. The people who have said they would like to do this challenge have started their training and on Monday 24th July we went canoeing in Oxford. It was good fun but we are working on our steering as some people did end up in the bushes!

This will be a sponsored event so please do offer to sponsor anyone you know doing the challenge. If you would like to get more involved by doing the challenge yourself or being part of the support crews please let Rob know. Contact redmondsseal@styleacre.org.uk or telephone Rob on 01491 827582.

Rob Edmonds-Seal

Andrew's adventure

Wantage tenant Andrew had 'open top bus ride' on his bucket list, and was able to cross this one off on 28th June when he toured Oxford with Wantage staff team member Hattie. They said: "A big red bus came our way and we were handed two sets of red headphones, then we wandered upstairs. We sat down and were told to plug our headphones into the side of the bus! From there our journey began. We were shown around all of the universities and colleges then around the city, whilst being told the history of each thing we passed". The tour lasted around an hour and Andrew and Hattie ended the day with a bite to eat. Andrew had an amazing time and wants to do it all again, but this time he has his sights set on London!



Go the Extra Mile Award for this month goes to:



Gina Preddy



What people said about Gina: We love Gina's positivity and can-do attitude. Gina has recently joined the Leadership Development programme and continues to provide great support in her roles at Sovereign Close and Stenter Lane. Gina is always positive about learning new things including brushing up on her computer skills. Gina is also a great companion for music weekends at Butlin's. Thanks Gina!

Please remember 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.

Turnstyle Flower Arranging Group



Amongst the many activities Turnstyle offers is a flourishing **flower arranging group**. Members meet regularly and produce some beautiful displays of fresh flowers and foliage. We are sometimes lucky enough to have one of the group's creations for our welcome desk here at Evenlode House, which really brightens up the entrance lobby.

Here are group members Susie, Peter, Steve and Grace, pictured for National Flower Arranging day on 5th May, surrounded by some of their work.

Social Group activities

All aboard the *Oriana*

Over the years, the Social Group has visited a huge variety of attractions and taken a number of boat trips, but in early summer they were on board a **really** big boat – the ocean liner ***Oriana***. Whilst in her home port at Southampton, the group went on board for a guided tour of this huge P & O vessel, followed by a delicious meal in one its 6 restaurants. At 69.84 tonnes and with a maximum capacity of 1,880 passengers, The *Oriana* also boasts 4 entertainment venues and no fewer than 7 bars. Pictured below are members of the Social Group taking the air on deck, and right - the fabulous interior of *Oriana*.



Full steam ahead on the Watercress Line



A sunny day at the beginning of June found members of the Social Group enjoying a day out at **Mid Hants Railway**.

Also known as the 'Watercress Line' because of its history of transporting watercress from the local beds at Alresford up to market in London, the railway was saved from dereliction by a band of volunteers in 1973. Re-born as a tourist attraction the Watercress Line is now a very popular destination, in particular for steam train enthusiasts, with a number of locomotives to see and rides available. They even run special dining trains, real ale trains and a varied calendar of special events which could make it just the ticket for the Social Group to make a return trip.

Dinosaurs in the wild!

On 6th July, Social Group members braved '**Dinosaurs in the Wild**', an exhibition bringing them up close to incredibly life-like re-creations such as the scary specimen pictured here. There were exhibits of all things dinosaur, from eggs and baby dinosaurs, even their dung! Another part of the attraction was a special 3D film where viewers could experience how it must have felt to move amongst these huge creatures.



Barge trip with the Bruce Trust



Social Group members enjoyed a pleasant day out recently on board canal barge '**Hannah**' which is one of several boats run by the **Bruce Trust** with support from the **Rotary Club**. There was a doubtful start to the trip when the boat broke down, but the day was saved when an engineer was summoned to fit a new part. After this delay, the trip could finally begin and the group travelled from Hungerford to Great Bedwyn, enjoying a packed lunch on the way. The trip took in 13 locks and as the crew encourage passengers to help out, everybody had a go at working the locks.

Hawk Conservancy Trust

On 20th July, the Social Group visited the **Hawk Conservancy Trust** near Andover. There they saw a wide variety of hunting birds, watched a display of the birds in flight, and even watched vultures being fed. The Hawk Conservancy Trust is well established as an organisation providing education about these beautiful birds, conservation and research, and rehabilitation for injured birds of prey.



Out & About with Matt & Grace



Crowmarsh tenants Matt and Grace are very active in the local community, and the month of June has kept them particularly busy.

8th June found them at Crowmarsh Village Hall, casting their votes in the **General Election**. On 17th they spent a busy day at Wallingford's annual **Carnival**, helping Wallingford florist Keri Harvey, whilst on 22nd of the month they were amongst the watching crowds as personnel from nearby RAF Benson exercised their **freedom of Wallingford** with a parade through the town.



Fundraising & Community News

Oxford Half Marathon – Sunday 8th October

We have a few charity places for the excellent 13 mile Half Marathon – a brilliant challenge around the beautiful city. Contact Philippa if you are interested in running for Style Acre. pstannard@styleacre.org.uk or call 01491 827591.

Tea Room Summer Fete – July



Style Acre's second annual summer fete at our Tea Room was a tremendous success with lots of activities for people of all ages. Twelve people entered our cake competition which was judged by Christine Wallace, renowned local quarter-finalist on the Bake Off. Watch Christine announce the winning cake here! This year we added live music to our day, and are really grateful to the Goring Little Ukulele Band and The Crimps, for providing a great selection of music, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. People especially

enjoyed dancing to the music – which you can see here!

We are grateful again to local butchers Calnan, for running the BBQ and we were delighted that so many local craftspeople and stall holders joined us.

People we support and staff provided face-painting, games, a tombola and raffle and we are delighted to announce that we raised over £1,000 which will go towards supporting the Tea Room, enabling people with learning disabilities to gain meaningful work experience.

Access All Areas – another huge success!

We have had a brilliant season at Cornerstone Arts Didcot. Our annual day of creative activity and taster sessions created a very busy vibe at the arts centre. Our Access All Areas Showcase – an evening of song, dance, comedy and poetry by people supported by Style Acre, was hugely successful. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put on this fantastic Friday night show, especially the staff at T2 and Lu Cozma of Formul8 Arts for coaching and project-managing the event.



A Style Acre Cream Tea



People we support who work at our Tea Room, organised a fabulous cream tea for over 50 guests in stunning private gardens.

Our Tea Room experts served scones made in our training kitchen and fresh strawberries while in the garden, our dance group wowed the guests with two fantastic routines – watch the video [here](#).

Guests enjoyed a tour of our supporter's garden with pots in profusion and immaculate lawns surrounded by perennial borders. A selection of plants were on sale, with proceeds going to Style Acre. The event raised over £1,376 towards our work.

London to Paris Bike Challenge



My name is Mark Stoddart and I am cycling from London to Paris to raise money for Style Acre, which supports people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire.

I have first-hand experience of the difference Style Acre can make. My friends have a 23 year old daughter, Lucy, with pronounced learning disabilities – she needs 1:1 support at all times. Lucy's mum, Sue, was anxious about the support Lucy would be able to receive as an adult, but has been so pleased with the care Lucy receives from her dedicated supported living team, enabling her to live in a house with peers and enjoy a stimulating and busy life. Having met a few of the carers I am hugely impressed with their professionalism and

enthusiasm. This will be a real challenge for me. Please [click here](#) if you would like to sponsor me.

Happy Holidays



Bluestone, Wales

Slade Road tenants Domenic, Jenny, Henry and Nicky enjoyed a wonderful holiday at Bluestone in Wales during May. They stayed in a wooden lodge within the large eco-friendly resort, and with cars not allowed on site they enjoyed zipping around in one of the centre's own golf buggies. Another kind of zipping was experienced by Domenic when he spent some time trying out Bluestone's zip wire activity, whilst other members of the party enjoyed a relaxing morning in the spa. There were also visits to the beach, a trip to Folly Farm Park and a boat trip to watch the seals at Caldey Island. Here are some snaps from their trip.



Relaxing break at Shanklin, Isle of Wight



Whilst Slade Road tenants were enjoying their break in Wales, **Regent Gardens** tenants were also having a great holiday, at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. The party travelled by coach and ferry, then settled into a lovely hotel with a sea view. Everybody enjoyed the food and especially the wonderful puddings on offer each day! Here are James, Martin, Ben and Ruth, out for a stroll and taking the sea air at Eastcliff Promenade. Shanklin boasts a fine beach of golden sands but there are lots of other attractions and during their stay they took a steam train ride, toured a vineyard and sampled its wines, and explored Shanklin where they browsed for gifts to take home.