

# Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



## STORIES WINTER 2017-18

### **A great start to 2018 - Style Acre rated outstanding by CQC**

I know many of you will already have heard this news but we are so proud we want to ensure everyone gets to hear about it.

We were delighted that following the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of our supported living services in November we achieved a rating of 'outstanding'. We were inspected in 5 areas and achieved an 'outstanding' rating in 4 areas and 'good' in the other. Outstanding is the highest of the 4 possible ratings. Less than 2% of adult social care inspections achieve a rating of outstanding and less than 0.5% achieve this in 4 out of 5 areas so it really is something to be proud of. The report can be found on our website and makes great reading. See [www.styleacre.org.uk](http://www.styleacre.org.uk)

As you can imagine everyone is really buzzing from the outcome and it is great to get formal recognition of the fantastic job everyone does. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the role you play, the support that you give us and the contribution you make to the charity, together we make an outstanding team.

*Chris Ingram CEO*



### **Go the Extra Mile Award for this issue goes to...**

#### **The Outstanding Style Acre Team**

**Thanks to everyone!**

### **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](mailto:bsegesdy@styleacre.org.uk) or by post to Bev at Evenlode House, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BA.

### **A smart new home for T2**

It has been a very hectic and exciting start to 2018 for everyone at **T2**, as our Didcot hub has just re-located from 5 Abingdon Road to a new home across town at Trident Park, pictured right. Contractors were busy for some time refurbishing the interior, and special thanks must go to our Style Acre painting gang – willing volunteers who took up brushes and rollers and set about the decorating. This has all led to smart, well-appointed new premises with a large kitchen, training room facilities, reception, activity area, quiet room, hot desk area, sewing & music room and offices. In fact, there is enough office space to house part of our Admin Team; our IT & Communication departments are due to transfer to Trident Park during February.



## 100K Challengers celebrated



On 7<sup>th</sup> November a reception was held at T2 for those who participated in the gruelling **100K Challenge**, as reported in the autumn edition of *Stories*. It was a chance to get together, celebrate their achievements both physical and in raising over £2,000, and to receive well-deserved certificates to acknowledge their hard work.

## Men's Group activities

### Aerospace Museum, Bristol

9<sup>th</sup> November found members of the Men's Group at the **Aerospace Museum** in Bristol. A highlight of this trip was to see the last Concorde aircraft to have carried passengers. Here's Pete with the unmistakable nose of this iconic aircraft peeping over his shoulder.



### Chelsea Army Museum

On 11<sup>th</sup> January the Men's Group took a trip to the **National Army Museum** at Chelsea.

Here they spent a fascinating day amongst all things military. The museum is also home to a very unusual exhibit - the skeleton of Napoleon's horse, *Marengo*.

### Mad Museum

25<sup>th</sup> January's trip was an absorbing visit to **MAD** (Mechanical Art & Design) Museum at Stratford-upon-Avon. 3000 square feet of educational, interactive, witty and fun exhibits including automata and marble runs, quirky clocks and mechanical flying birds.



### Christmas lights at Blenheim Palace

One of many Christmas themed activities was the Men's Group visit to **Blenheim Palace** on 30<sup>th</sup> November. There they enjoyed the Christmas Lights Trail with thousands of lights, lasers and tableaux as they followed a trail through the woods, to the lake and water gardens, with the palace illuminated in the background. Spectacular, and just the thing to get people into the festive mood.

## Festive Fun



**Turnstyle's** ever popular and much anticipated Christmas party included a nativity play. Both staff members and Turnstyle users took part and here are Christina (left) and Lisa, in costume and ready for rehearsal.

Around 130 people attended the party, with a buffet lunch and disco as part of the festivities.

Style Acre's second **Santa Dash** was held in Wallingford on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, ending with a mass conga around the Market Place! This is fast becoming a very popular event – there were more participants this time around, and amongst the runners were Assistant Support Manager David (left) with Wheatley tenant Matty. Matty did a great job, running a really fast time and raising over £100 for Style Acre in the process. Brilliant work Matty, very well done!



The **Supported Living Christmas Party** on 8<sup>th</sup> December was a great success, helped in large measure by tenants and staff across all the supported living services. Thank you everyone for your support. We had many delicious contributions to the wonderful bring and share buffet. Operations Director Ben with tenant Darryl were on DJ duties and provided a great disco, and the table centrepiece competition entries were just amazing with the Christmas tree theme inspiring people to use all manner of materials. We had trees made from plastic forks, paper cups, clothes pegs, papier mache and cupcake cases, but first prize went to our Banbury service with their completely edible gingerbread tree, pictured left. Well done!

During the festive period there was a flurry of **visits to the theatre** to take in pantomimes and other seasonal shows. People saw productions of *Snow White* and *Robin Hood*, and no fewer than three separate groups enjoyed productions of *Peter Pan*, with the **Men's Group** enjoying this famous panto at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon, whilst **Regent Gardens** tenants and the **Karate Group** from **T2** took in a rival production of *Peter Pan* at the Hexagon, Reading. Here are the Regent Gardens group in their seats awaiting curtain up. Meanwhile at **Turnstyle**, a group attended Cornerstone, Didcot to see *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. A group from **SABRe, Banbury** rang the changes with a departure from the traditional festive show, when they went to see Oxford New Theatre's Christmas production of *War Horse*.



## Coffee & cake with Baker Christine



The **Star Group** welcomed new Patron Christine Wallace to their regular Tuesday morning meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, as she popped in for coffee, cake and a chat. Although Christine is well known for her baking skills as demonstrated on the Great British Bake Off, this time it was staff team member Ady who provided a tasty home-made Victoria sponge filled with cream... one of Christine's favourites.

## Music & Dance



**Music & Dance** is an activity enjoyed by people right across Style Acre. To add to the fun, special occasions are often marked with something extra, as shown in these photos. Organiser Gill dressed up as a witch at Halloween, together with Pauline from the host venue in full Michael Jackson Mode. For Children in Need, Simon can be seen here in full Pudsey garb, with Gill sporting Pudsey ears! If you would like more information about Music & Dance please contact **Turnstyle** on 01491 827582.



## Chris gets cooking

Didcot tenant Chris has successfully completed an **ASDAN cooking course**. The course covers safe handling and storage of foods, use of tools and equipment and food hygiene, as well as the preparation of both sweet and savoury dishes. Chris is justifiably very proud of his achievement and the certificate he received, which he's showing off in this picture. Congratulations, Chris.



## News from Philippa Rallings – Style Acre Job Coach

### Matt Holmes at You HR



Having heard about Style Acre's work, the team at local HR & Organisational Development consultancy You HR (pictured left) offered Crowmarsh tenant Matt a work trial. Matt began working at You HR for one session a week on a voluntary trial basis initially, processing numerical data, assisting with uploads and helping develop newsletters, mailshots etc. His IT skills and super-fast efficiency didn't go unnoticed and after three months You HR were pleased to offer Matt paid work from January 2018. So impressed were they, that he was also offered an increase in hours and is now working for the organisation on two sessions each week. Well done, Matt!

### Please could you help?

Do you know anyone among your family or friends who works in the animation business, possibly linked to the computer industry or for the design world? It would be very useful to have a name to contact in this line of work. This would help me to try and get a work placement for a young man with autism who is especially talented at drawing cartoons etc. Here are just some of his qualifications:

BTEC Level 1 Award for Foundation Learning in Art and Design  
Extended diploma in Creative Media Production (games) level 3

If you can help please call me on 07702 866133 or email [prallings@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:prallings@styleacre.org.uk)

Thank you.

**Philippa Rallings**



## Autumn International at Twickenham

Style Acre rugby fans enjoyed witnessing an easy England victory over Australia at the Autumn International at **Twickenham** on a wet November day. England amassed a fifth successive victory over Australia, running amok in the closing stages to win comfortably, 30 points to 6.

## Fundraising & Community News

### Events!

We have something for everyone – walks, cycling, triathlons... and even a soiree! Find out more [here](#) and see our highlights below.

Enjoy one of the best Kylie Tribute with Indian Nosh on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Book your tickets [here](#)



Enjoy an evening brought to you by Style Acre, in a stunning setting of a private home on the banks of the River Thames, near Wallingford.

You'll be welcomed with a glass of bubbly in glorious gardens, before enjoying a delicious buffet. Our performance group will entertain you with comedy, song and dance, followed by an auction and disco which will take us into the early hours. Ticket price for the evening is £50 per person, which includes a glass of

prosecco, dinner and half a bottle of wine. We will be running a bar during the evening. There is plenty of parking and, if the wine is flowing, we can book you a cab and you can pick up your car the next day! Please get in touch with us at [community@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:community@styleacre.org.uk) if you would like to join us.

### Sinead visits Style Acre

We were really pleased to show Style Acre Patron Sinead Cusack around on a whistle-stop tour! Starting in **Banbury**, Sinead met the cookery class before heading upstairs and shown around some super-tidy flats by the residents!

Sinead was really impressed by her lunch at the **Tea Room** – made by Daniel Orpin. Finally, Sinead came to **Turnstyle** and visited the talented art group.



