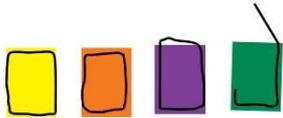


Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



STORIES SPRING 2019

Style Acre moves to the sea side

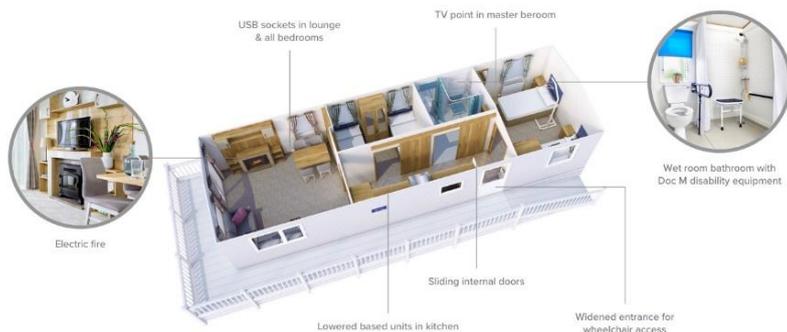
I am delighted to let you know that Style Acre has purchased a caravan at a holiday park on Hayling Island on the Hampshire coast. The caravan has been bought to enable the people we support to access affordable and fun holidays throughout the year (the park is open from 1st March until 31st December).

The website for the park can be found here:

www.parkdeanresorts.co.uk/location/hampshire/hayling-island/

The caravan we have purchased is situated very close to the main hub where you can find the restaurant, shop, swimming pools (indoor and outdoor and both with hoists) and nightly entertainment. The caravan is fully wheelchair accessible with low level kitchen units, wide doorways and a hoist is provided.

As shown in the plan below there are 2 bedrooms, wet room / WC, kitchen and a lounge area with a double sofa bed. The first bedroom can be made up as a double or twin room, the second bedroom is a twin only and the lounge has the pull out double sofa bed.



The caravan will be available to rent from mid-late May 2019 and the bookings will be managed by Julie Evans. Booking forms have been sent to all managers so please talk to them first. Breaks will mainly be for 3, 4 or 7 nights initially but with the possibility of other options outside of the peak periods. We will operate a ballot for holidays this year until we know what the demand is likely to be.



This is the spot where our new caravan will be located once it has been delivered to the park.

The park has lots going on but there is also loads to do close by: fun fair, beach and steam railway to name just a few.

The caravan has all the facilities to be self-catering (with patio & garden furniture for alfresco dining) but there are plenty of other places to eat on the park or nearby.

Happy holidays! Chris Ingram CEO



Crafty use of unwanted plastic

Many people know Wantage tenant Dick has been collecting plastic milk bottle tops, and there have been some questions about what he's doing with them all! Dick enjoys being creative, and the bottle tops have been great for stimulating the imagination. He's come up with some really creative ideas. An old metal bin was transformed into a lovely flower pot, and Dick created a Valentine heart, sticking the bottle tops onto a canvas. Here he is, working on the heart design. The bottle tops have also been a useful tool for fun learning activities, and it's good to see them being re-used, not thrown away.



Fundraising & Volunteer Department round up

Harwell Safari Supper

Dan, Rachel & Sadie (seen here with Turnstyle Manager Gaynor) had a busy evening selling raffle tickets at Harwell's *Safari Supper* – they sold nearly £500 worth of tickets! The event raised more than £3,000 overall and £1,150 of this has been donated to Style Acre. Huge thanks to Debbie who organised the event, Penny Kinloch who put us in touch with Debbie, and to the generous people of Harwell!



Dorchester Festival

The festival is about to start! We hope to see lots of you there enjoying yourselves. Please come and find us at the Style Acre stall, buy some raffle tickets and also have a look at the auction, there are some fab prizes! Holidays, meals, experiences – and all currently going for bargain prices. Details are on the Dorchester Festival website www.dorchesterfestival.com.

Thames Run

The Wallingford Thames Run is supporting Style Acre again this year and it'd be great to have lots of our people involved! The team is looking for marshals, people to give out medals, and car park attendants. If you've a couple of hours to spare on Sun 19th May please contact Anita on 01491 827593 or email community@styleacre.org.uk.



Didcot Colour Run

Last year's Colour Run was so much fun, it is back again on Saturday 15th June in Edmonds Park in Didcot (from 11-1ish), please rally your friends and family and come and join in this inclusive and joyful event!

Wallingford Radio will be providing music and broadcasting live, and you're guaranteed to finish with a big smile on your face and lots of coloured powder on your white Style Acre t-shirt!

Sign up at:

<https://styleacre.org.uk/events/15th-june-didcot-colour-run/> or for more information, call 01491 827593.

Late Summer Cruise

Join Style Acre and the Chiltern Centre for a late summer cruise on the *New Orleans* in **Henley**, with drinks and canapés as we cruise along the Thames at sunset on Thursday 29th August from 6-8pm. Tickets are now on sale so book quickly before they all go! More info is on our website <https://styleacre.org.uk/events/late-summer-cruise/> or call 01491 827593.



Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers awards

Style Acre has again been recognised at the OACP awards. The 2019 awards were held on 22nd March with tough competition in every category. We came second in the Organisational award (Care Employer). Michelle Staniforth came second and was highly commended in the Oxfordshire Hero category. Ben Lanes was shortlisted in the Registered Managers category and Style Acre was recognised as an outstanding provider within the county. Here is Michelle, pictured with Ben and award certificate.



Workplace success for Jenny

Slade Road tenant Jenny has volunteered for over 10 years at **Premier Inn, Didcot**. Working Wednesdays, 9am-1pm as part of the housekeeping team, Jenny cleans & prepares the rooms alongside colleagues like Carol, seen on the left in this photo with Jenny. The Premier Inn staff are always supportive, and Jenny enjoys joining in their social events too. Best of all, She's now been offered a paid post at the Premier Inn. A well-deserved reward for her dedication and good work. Everyone at Slade Road is delighted for Jenny, and we join them in saying very well done!



Comings and goings

We say 'Hello', and extend a warm welcome to Sarah and Cheryl.

I am delighted to introduce you to our new finance director **Sarah Stuart** and our new Fundraising Manager **Cheryl Claxton**. Sarah is a qualified accountant and joined us in February to lead the Finance team and be part of our Senior Management team. Sarah has already hit the ground running with year-end and budgets, and is also getting out and about visiting as much of Style Acre as she can. Cheryl joins us on 1st May as our new fundraising manager following the departure last year of Philippa Stannard, and to help during Anita's imminent maternity leave.

Thank you and farewell to Rob

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Rob Edmonds-Seal at the end of April. Rob has been with Style Acre for 12 years and in recent years has been our Director of Day Opportunities. Rob has achieved so much in his time here and has always thrown himself into our events and activities with great enthusiasm. In recent years he has been: a painter and decorator, kayak coach, pantomime dog, baby Jesus and the list could go on, and on.....



As you can see, Rob has put everything into his time at Style Acre. He is leaving to re-train as a landscape gardener and we are hopeful that he will remain connected to Style Acre and our employment of people with a learning disability through this new venture. Rob has made a huge number of friendships during his time with us, and he will be missed by us all.



Hello everyone! For those who don't already know me, my name is **Hannah Wolstenholme** and I'm starting a new role within Style Acre. I will be a new Operations Manager for Day Opportunities, overseeing the Day Opportunities services, social enterprises, speech & language therapy and work programmes. I've worked for Style Acre since 2012, managing T2 and then SABRe in Banbury. I am very excited to be taking on this new role and feel really lucky to be given the opportunity to work on the range of inspiring projects and services, with such amazing people we support and staff teams. I'm delighted to say **Fiona Kearley** will be our new acting Banbury Manager. She has been working as our Assistant Manager in Banbury, and will do an amazing job!

Men's Group activities



A wintry February day found Men's Group members in Banbury to witness the arrival and departure of vehicles involved in the **Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique** (left). Having started the UK leg of the rally in Dumbartonshire, participating vehicles stopped off in Banbury en route to Dover and ultimately, Monte Carlo. A chance for the drivers & navigators to rest and eat, and for attention to any issues with their veteran vehicles, which included Austin Healeys, MG Midgets, 1953 Ford Popular and a whole host of Minis. March saw another car-themed trip, to **Brooklands Museum**

in Weybridge, Surrey. It has collections of aircraft, cars, motorcycles & bicycles and on this visit, members got a close look at one of the star exhibits, the Napier-Railton racing car (right) and also heard it running (very loud)! It still holds the lap record at Brooklands, which was the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit. These days, the Napier-Railton is insured for a cool £5 million.



A more sedate outing in February started with a visit to **Vue Cinema**, Reading to see the film *Instant Family* which was both funny and emotional. After lunch at Pizza Hut, Men's Group members made their way to the **Hexagon Theatre** where they rounded off the day's events by taking in a show, *Madagascar*. Dreamworks' original animated film was brought to the stage in a live-action production full of song & dance, colour and fun, featuring amazing costumes and puppets.

How do you tell a crocodile from an alligator? One difference is the snout shape - wider & U-shaped for alligators, pointed & V-shaped for crocs - as Men's Group members learned on a trip to **Crocodiles of the World** at Brize Norton. It's home to 17 of the 24 worldwide species of crocodile, alligator & caiman plus mammals, lizards, birds & Galapagos tortoises. People were able to handle a small 3 year old alligator, and here's James making his acquaintance. There was also a chance to handle a Boa Constrictor, and to see crocs being fed. A fun and informative day.



On 28th February the Men's Group visited **iFly** in Basingstoke. Seated on the Parafly machine (left), and wearing a virtual reality headset, people were able to immerse themselves in an incredibly realistic simulation of real life paragliding. Then, on 11th April, it was time for all things astronaut with **Space Store** at Cornerstone, Didcot. There were virtual reality space experiences, and replicas of astronaut Tim Peake's space suit to try on. People got to examine moon rock and meteorite fragments, and tried the foods astronauts eat in space, all from special vacuum sealed foil packs, including squeeze cheese!



A soggy April day found the Men's group at **Swanage Railway**. Despite the rain, they enjoyed a trip up the line to Corfe Castle in one of this heritage railway's beautifully restored trains. On return to Swanage, another treat was in store, the famous *Flying Scotsman* had arrived for a scheduled stop, allowing visitors a close look and a chance to experience the driver's eye view from the footplate. Here's Martin (right) at the controls. Earlier, at the end of March the sun smiled on the Men's group trip to **Paulton's Park**. It was a pleasantly bright spring day for riding rollercoasters and, whether fast or scary or both, they rode them all.



Go the Extra Mile Award for this edition goes to:



Des Chainey IT Assistant since November 2016

Here's what people said about Des: Des is always on hand and willing to help. His timekeeping is impeccable, and he won't leave until work is completed even if it means a late finish. He's become a valued member of the IT team and his continued growth in confidence, knowledge & skills has proven to be of great value, he often sorts out problems in the absence of his IT

colleagues and offers many suggestions as to how things could be mended/improved/resolved. He's very happy to share relevant information and is now able to teach others, saving permanent staff time. He has even loaned us his own equipment! Des isn't afraid to speak up if he knows it will benefit those he's dealing with. Des is a pleasure to have around. Whilst working for Style Acre he's become a more confident team member and his interactions with others have been very positive. He brings a lovely sense of humour and smile to the office. **Thanks Des!**



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.

Walks to Wellness - Walk Leader training

As you'll remember, we were pleased to invite Ashley Chapman from Oxfordshire County Council to run some walk leader training back in November. A keen group of people we support, staff & volunteers took part in the first stage of the training. I'm pleased to update you with the news that most people have completed the second stage and are planning their own walks. Huge congratulations to **Darryl Jones** who is the first walk leader to complete his training! He planned and took part in a walk around Ladygrove estate, Didcot on 5th March which was well attended and included many Style Acre Health & Safety committee members. As part of the Ways to Wellness campaign we recognise the benefits walking can have, and want to encourage this at all levels. Look out for more 'Walks to Wellness'! Here's Darryl receiving his sign off from Ashley Chapman. Well done Darryl. **Bev Segesdy**



WAYS TO WELLNESS!

CALENDAR 2019!



Following on from the great success of Feel Fab Feb, why not challenge yourself further to feel healthier and happier by trying some new fun things. Look out for the Ways to Wellness calendar or come up with your own ideas! Why not try a Walks to Wellness or cook up something healthy!

Can you do at least one activity a month in 2019 which makes you feel good? Remember to take photos & videos. Look out for promotions and events each month, and prizes for the best ideas and photos!

For more information about Style Acre's Ways to Wellness programme, please contact Bev Segesdy on 07841338916, or email bsegesdy@styleacre.org.uk

Exposition 75: A Journey through Art

The Old Fire Station Gallery, Henley will host a July **exhibition** with strong Style Acre connections. *Exposition 75: A Journey through Art*, is by Mike MacGregor (of our Turnstyle staff), Andrea Brailsford & Neil Marchant and will include contributions from invited Style Acre artists - staff members, service users & family of people we support, including Janet Lueck, Alan Goodenough, Glenn Ford, Linda Scurr, Catherine Darling, Darryl Jones & Simon Gibbling. The exhibition marks Mike's 75th birthday and will embrace many artistic styles & ideas: painting, drawing, mixed media, collage & abstracts. It runs from 5-8 July, 10.30am-3.30pm with free entry. All are invited to the private view on 6 July at 12.30pm. For more info contact Mike: 07464 715846 Andrea: andreabrailsford22@gmail.com



Valentine's Day Treat

Crowmarsh tenant **Grace** provided sweet treats for the Yoga group on Valentine's Day. As a keen baker, she chose to mark the occasion with some delicious homemade biscuits, heart shaped and topped with icing & sprinkles. The Yoga group enjoyed them with a cuppa and since there were none left over for Grace to take home, the biscuits were clearly a big hit!

Scarecrow competition



We had a fantastic response to our song themed scarecrow competition and Anita and Rob helped me with the judging just after Easter. Here is a group photo with all the entries, and congratulations to the winners below who will all be representing Style Acre at Dorchester Festival's scarecrow trail at the beginning of May. A huge thank you to everyone who took part.

Chris Ingram

3rd Place: Lyneham Close

2nd Place: Hagbourne Road

Overall winner: Bradstocks way



As well as our winners, we congratulate 2 Highly commended entries: Slade Road and Chestnuts.