

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



STORIES SUMMER 2019

A special day at Hagbourne Road

Hagbourne Road tenants Guy, Olivia & Ellie have lived at Hagbourne Road for 10 years, and it's been 5 years since their friend Lucy joined them. To celebrate this, staff & tenants held a wonderful party at the house which was also attended by family & friends as well as some past staff. There were lots of decorations, and entertainment included the fantastic large inflatable pictured right! Everyone had a great time, a highlight being the visit of an ice cream van which the staff had arranged. A very smart move on such a warm day!



Go the Extra Mile Award for this edition goes to:

Anita Powell



Sarah Griffiths



Anita, Community Fundraiser & Volunteer Co-ordinator & Sarah, Garden Co-ordinator share the award this time. They are hugely popular and well thought of, making so many positive contributions to life at Style Acre. They also both nominated each other!

Thanks **Anita Powell!** People had so many good things to say about her commitment, friendliness & enthusiasm. All her events are high profile and she works so hard to make them a success. We also have an army of volunteers that Anita does lots of behind the scenes work towards; training and ensuring they are all included and happy as part of Style Acre. She has an amazing ability to do what could be a hugely stressful job with such calm and is always approachable, plus keeping an eye on the overall picture, whilst working on the tiniest details for events. Thank you so much, Anita.

Thanks **Sarah Griffiths!** Sarah always goes more than the extra mile! She is always busy organising and attending events for the Wantage Garden Project. Whether it's a plant sale, fundraising in the town or judging a dog show Sarah is always on hand to help out. Her hard work and dedication to the Wantage garden have made the project a huge success and it has become a real haven for many people we support. Her vision of bringing 'grow your own' to Style Acre has made Project Carrot the most talked about and celebrated project of the year! She's one of those who quietly gets things done very efficiently and effectively but doesn't shout about it! Thank you so much, Sarah.

Please remember to send your nominations! We want to celebrate achievements, excellence and innovation within Style Acre. We recognise individuals often go the extra mile and we want to thank and share with others, the outstanding contributions these individuals make. Nominees can be anyone within Style Acre who you feel has gone the extra mile! Nominations 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:

bsegesdy@styleacre.org.uk or by post to Bev Segesdy at T2, Unit 2C Trident Business Park, Basil Hill Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 7HJ.

Work experience success

Here's a lovely photo of Didcot tenant Sadie, proudly wearing her new volunteer badge that **Ladybirds Pre-school** of **Didcot** have given her. She has been with them for nearly 18 months now, one day a week. There are two other pre-school placements that are also going well. Lisa is working at **Crowmarsh Pre-school**, whilst Sarah helps out at the **Ladybirds Pre-school** in **Abingdon**, and they both attend one afternoon each week. They all work with just a bit of backup support from our Job Coach Philippa Rallings & colleagues and they and the children are really enjoying it. Well done, ladies.



Men's group round-up



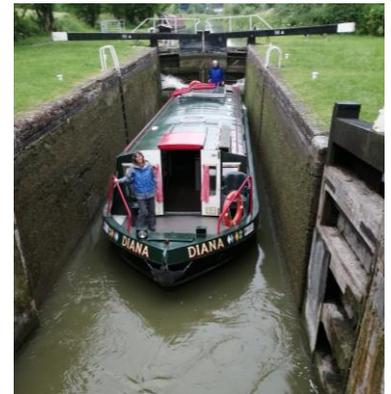
May & June saw Theme Park trips to **Chessington World of Adventures** and **Legoland**. Both days were wet but that didn't stop people having fun. Legoland had a *Star Wars* exhibition, and members enjoyed many rides at both parks including *Tomb Blaster*, *Cobra* and water rides. Staff team member Carol got absolutely rain-soaked on the *Cobra* ride (it's *not* a water ride!) Otto is pictured here with a friendly looking crocodile at Legoland



Kinder weather was most welcome when members of the Men's Group visited **Marwell Zoo** near **Winchester**. With its 140 acre site and over 1200 animals of 135 species, there was plenty to see and explore which made for an absorbing day out.



There was fun on the water in May & June. May found the Men's Group playing pirates as they joined the annual **Kennet & Avon Canal Trust** pirate themed barge trip along the canal. Everyone enjoyed brunch before boarding the barge in their pirate outfits. Check out Mikey, Henry & Chris pictured left! Another great trip on the Kennet & Avon Canal was on 10th June on the barge *Diana* from **Great Bedwyn** to **Hungerford**, passing under 2 bridges, through 2 swing bridges and 10 locks. Everyone got a chance to help operate the locks and to have a go at steering the boat.



In July it was time for the **Royal International Air Tattoo** at **Fairford**. A chance to see many planes & helicopters, plus the **Red Arrows**. A very hot day in late July saw members enjoying a steam train journey through the **Cotswolds** from **Toddington** to **Cheltenham**. A 28 mile round trip on this volunteer-run railway, offering spectacular countryside views.



For the **75th anniversary of D-Day** in early June, the Men's group travelled to the south coast which had played such a big part in the liberation of France in WWII. They experienced some of the D-Day commemorations which took place during that week. They visited the **D-Day museum** in **Southsea**, spent time looking at some military vehicles and even bumped into a **Winston Churchill** look-alike! Here are some of the group, pictured with the great man.

Rebound therapy progress

Drayton tenant Christina was very happy to earn a certificate of progress at **rebound therapy** recently. She attends the sessions run by Turnstyle staff team member Calum every Wednesday at Willowbrook Leisure Centre. Christina enjoys seeing her friends Ali, Mary-Anne, Giles, David and Hope at the sessions. Christina says "seat drop is my favourite move. I really work up a thirst after all the bouncing on the trampoline!" Here is Christina pictured at the session, proudly displaying her certificate



Turnstyle activities, with Charlotte Hallam

Turnstyle has a small but enthusiastic **Photography group** which ventures out on Friday afternoons in search of new subjects to photograph. They enjoy visiting different locations, deciding what will make the best pictures and setting about getting the best images they can. Here's a splendid peacock whose image they captured on one of these trips. People have been learning to use the Nikon camera, practising with it to help familiarise themselves with how to operate it and to feel comfortable handling it. The Photography group are very proud of the pictures they're creating.



Turnstyle also has a **Travel group** who meet one afternoon each week to learn about different countries. A recent subject for study was Denmark. Members made Danish flags, learned about their traditional folk dances and the costumes worn, and also talked about Danish towns and coastal locations, accompanied by some pictures. They also listened to Danish music. All this gave the members a feel for what life is like in Denmark. They even learned some basic phrases which were useful when they visited a Danish café! Back at Turnstyle, they baked a 'Danish Dream cake' called Drømmekage, one of the most traditional Danish cakes. It was so delicious that they recommend anyone to give it a try next time they are baking.

T2 news

It's not only the Men's Group who enjoy a fun day out at a Theme Park. A group from T2 has visited **Thorpe Park** during the summer. Of course they sampled the many roller coasters, and also risked a possible soaking on a rapids water ride!



IT ASDAN Course

4 members from T2 have recently started their **IT ASDAN course**. As you can see from the picture Domenic, Jenny, Henry & James are all concentrating and working hard towards achieving their qualification. Each person has the use of their own laptop and will be tutored by João, a member of the T2 staff.

Keith Thornton, IT Manager



The **T2 Dance group** recently had fun taking part in a local dance show. *Angels* dance show was held at Abingdon School, and our group performed two dances.

Here pictured are group members (l-r) Charlotte (staff) Sam, Rachel, Jo (Staff), Henry, Dick, Katy-Anne, Liam, Molly and Amanda.



Happy Holiday

After Lots of excitement, Slade Road tenant Nicky has recently been on a Shearing's coach holiday to the Welsh resort of **Llandudno**. During her time away, she enjoyed quite a few steam train trips. The highlight of these was a steam train journey to the top of Mount Snowdon (left).

Like the Men's Group, Slade Road tenants have enjoyed a day out on a canal barge during the summer, their trip taking them along a section of the **Kennet & Avon Canal**. Everyone got stuck in and had a go at helping to operate the locks, as well as steering the barge. Here is Katherine at the helm, keeping the boat on course.



Fundraising & Volunteer Department news

- Our new **Fundraising Manager, Cheryl Claxton**, is your main contact for fundraising, events and volunteering. She can be reached at cclaxton@styleacre.org.uk or on 01491 827593.

Dorchester Festival raises £26,000 for Style Acre!



For those who haven't heard the incredible news – Style Acre was recently presented with a cheque for £26,000 from Dorchester Festival. Thank you to everyone who helped support Style Acre's staff to create an inclusive, fun and successful festival alongside the organisers from Dorchester-on-Thames. It was lovey to see so many people we support involved with the various events and activities. Everyone had a wonderful time!



ASDAN group learns about garden safety

Our ASDAN group had fun recently learning about Safety in the Garden. Well done to all involved! Here's an example of the type of safety equipment used. Staying with gardening, this year we started a new social enterprise, offering gardening maintenance so people we support can develop gardening at work skills. The team have been busy tidying up plenty of gardens, including offering some free hours of gardening as a prize in the Dorchester Festival auction. Here are some of the team at work.



Wallingford Festival of Cycling

Style Acre recently partnered with *Wheels for All* Oxford to deliver inclusive cycling taster sessions followed by an inclusive ride through Wallingford town centre as part of the **Wallingford Festival of Cycling** again this year. Everyone enjoyed the day, and lots of people said that the inclusive ride was their favourite part of the whole festival. Well done to everyone who came along and took part! Here are Andrej & Ruth, trying out a two seat bike.



Late Summer Cruise, Henley, 6-8pm on 29th August

Join us for a wonderful evening cruise on one of **Hobbs of Henley's beautiful boats** along the river Thames while enjoying drinks, canapés and live music. The canapés are being made and served by T2 and we're running this event with the Chiltern Centre, a charity supporting young people with learning disabilities in Henley. Tickets are £25 per person and these can be purchased online at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thechilterncentre/> Contact our Fundraising Manager Cheryl on community@styleacre.org.uk or on 01491 827593 for further info. We can't wait to see you there!

Corporate volunteering groups helping Style Acre

We've been lucky enough to secure volunteering days from some corporate groups over the past few months. Large volunteering groups can make a big impact in a short time, as they bring so much man power – particularly welcome in our gardens at this time of year! A big thank you to groups from South Oxfordshire District Council, NatWest and Lloyds who have helped transform beds, furniture, fences, fences and more in our Wantage Market Garden, Stables Garden at Turnstyle and some of our houses to make them more attractive and usable places for people we support. Further days are booked in with Nationwide Wallingford and Lloyds.



Volunteers from SODC (above left) & NatWest (above right) with our Garden Co-ordinator Sarah Griffiths, garden volunteers and people we support, all at Wantage Market Garden.



Lloyds volunteers at Chalmore (above left) and Turnstyle (above right)

Green-fingered Wantage tenants

Wantage tenants Mark, Marianne, Dick & Andrew have, along with their staff team, been working hard on a project for their garden, sharing ideas, planning and working to make the best of their green space. People have enjoyed being outside in the fresh air, getting exercise, being closer to nature, learning how to care for what they are growing and gaining confidence from achieving goals by nurturing the plants and enjoying food they have grown. They have also spent time learning about the science of plants, animals, weather, the environment, nutrition and simple construction, building some of their own planters (below centre). It's a project that requires creativity and team work! It's not all about food – they have certainly planted for flavour (e.g. strawberries, tomatoes), but also for colour (marigolds, sunflowers), smell (basil, rosemary) and texture (celosia). They all share the digging, fertilising, planting, watering, weeding, re-potting, picking flowers, deadheading and gathering ripe crops which they turn into health meals like salads. Even the harvested seeds can be put to creative use for their craft activities. Tenants & staff at our Wantage service would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy a bit of time in their garden, relaxing with a cup of tea!



Project Carrot

Terrific Trugs! Project Carrot has taken off in trugmendous style! People across Style Acre have been planting, tending, watering and eating home grown produce in trugs donated by our wonderful volunteers at **Element 6!** We will be celebrating the project's success at the **village show** on 4th September (see flier below) when people will be entering the various competition categories to showcase the produce they have grown. Well done to everyone involved in the project, and here are some of the fantastic crop-laden trugs!

Bev Segesdy



Grace & Matt with their trug;
Daryl harvesting home-grown carrots

Wantage Market Garden Village Show

Wednesday 4th September
11am-2:30pm

SCHEDULE

Arrive from 10:30am
11am: Zumba
11:30am: Karate
11:45am: Barn Dance
12:30pm: Prizes
1pm: Yoga
1:30pm: Meditation
2pm: Belly Dancing
2:30pm: Home

Bring your vegetable cake for the competition!
Prizes for the top 3!

Bring your own picnic!

Plus lots of activities to try!

Style Acre
Supporting people with learning disabilities

A day of wellbeing and fun for people we support. For more info contact Bev Segesdy: bsegedy@styleacre.org.uk

Find us behind Wantage Community Support Service
Charlton Village Rd, OX12 7HG

