



Alabaré Learning Disability Services

Our Learning Disabilities Services are a very important part of what we do at Alabaré. We support over 150 people every year through our Registered Care Home, Supported Living project, Floating Support services and Supported Employment projects. In this issue of Close Up find out how we are helping our clients play a fuller part in the community and working towards our vision of a society where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a fulfilling life.



Emmaus House

Congratulations to staff and volunteers at Emmaus House, Alabaré's only registered Care Home for people with learning disabilities. Earlier this year Emmaus received a glowing report from the Commission for Social Care Inspection. The report described it as having a warm and welcoming atmosphere and praised the amount of personalised support given to residents. The Inspectors were also impressed with the range of activities that residents took part in and their integration within the local community.

This summer Emmaus resident Robert Eyre went on the trip of a lifetime to watch Juventus, his favourite football team, play in their home city of Turin. It is all part of Robert's Personal Support Plan, which sets out goals and aspirations for him to work towards.

He tells us all about his trip:

9th June - Arrived in Turin after a long journey and settled into our hotel to get a good night's sleep before the big day.

10th June - Started the day with some sightseeing - saw some great architecture and monuments. Walked through the ancient streets to the cathedral, Spirito Santo Corpus Domini, the home of the Turin Shroud, then said prayers and attended a service - the whole experience was breathtaking. Then put on my Juventus shirt and went to the Olympic Stadium, which was massive. The match got off to a bad start, but was exciting with both teams scoring twice, but Spezia scored a third goal in the dying seconds of the game. The final score was disappointing, but Juventus had won the Serie B championship and lifted the trophy.

11th June - Walked through the streets of Turin before catching a shuttle bus to the airport to head home. I will remember June 10th forever as the day I saw the Turin Shroud and the mighty Juventus."



As part of their Personal Support Plans, other residents have been on holidays to Exmouth and Butlins, to concerts in London and to watch the cricket at Lord's.

Alabaré Support

Wiltshire

Renata Reynolds is our dedicated Employment Co-ordinator for Wiltshire. Her job is to support those service users who want to get into paid or voluntary employment. Renata will assess each individual's transferable skills and help them to set goals and objectives to work towards. She holds a Job Shop two days a week and runs training in areas such as completing applications, interview techniques and CV writing. She will also find work experience for service users, as this can give them a taste of different areas of work and help them build a Record of Achievement to show to potential employers.

Renata said "It's so satisfying to find a client employment or work experience and watch them build up their confidence and self esteem as they move towards becoming more independent."

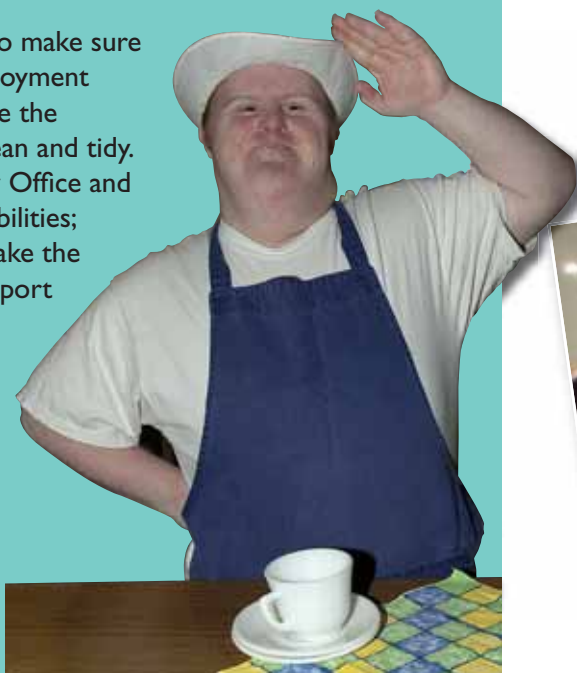
One client has recently secured herself a four-week work experience placement at Marks and Spencer at West Quay in Southampton. She competed with numerous other applicants from across the South West for the one placement available - it starts in March 08. Congratulations and best of luck.

A day in the life of an Alabaré Cana Coffee Bar employee Our Supported Employment project for people with learning disabilities.

"The coffee bar opens at 10am but we get in early to make sure we are ready to open on time. Our Supported Employment Worker we prepare the food, cakes and drinks, serve the customers, wash the dishes and keep the kitchen clean and tidy. We also run a delivery service to Alabaré's Salisbury Office and the Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities; orders are taken on a Thursday and on Friday we make the orders up and get them ready for delivery. Our Support Workers help us to develop our food hygiene, cooking and customer service skills. We then close the bar down at 12:30pm. Cana is really successful and there is always a happy atmosphere in the kitchen, I really enjoy working here."

Cana employee.

We are delighted that many clients from our Learning Disabilities Floating Housing Support service meet up at Cana on a Friday as well.



Recycling team has got it SORTED!

It's been another successful year for SORTED!, our Supported Employment recycling project that employs 10 people with learning disabilities. Since the beginning of January 2007 the team has produced 197

briquettes of crushed cans and 160 barrels of crushed foil, selling on 1.3 tons of cans and just over 5 tons of foil – the most they have ever produced since the project started back in 2003. What an achievement!

ted Employment

Hampshire

Kerry Lemon works for our Hampshire Supported Employment (HSE), which helps people with learning disabilities in Hampshire access employment and work experience opportunities.

Tommy Jessop is one of our HSE clients. He's an actor and has done work for both stage and television; he recently starred in BBC drama *Coming Down the Mountain*, which was about the unusual relationship between two teenage brothers – Ben who has Down's Syndrome (played by Tommy) and David (played by Nicholas Hoult).

Tommy came to Hampshire Supported Employment wanting to develop skills in areas other than acting and has managed to secure a placement at The Tower Arts Centre in Winchester. Supported by a member of Alabaré staff, Tommy carries out a number of office duties including filing and shredding. He is hoping to eventually be able to work unsupported.



Lorraine, works in the refectory at Winchester Cathedral and is one of only a few paid staff. Lorraine has been there seven years and enjoys her work so much she also works as a volunteer at the weekend.

Tommy also attends college part time studying Life Skills, Communicating with Confidence and Maths. However, Tommy is keen to continue with his acting and says "My favourite actors are Johnny Depp, Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise – I want to be them all rolled into one."

Marie works four hours a week in the jewellery department of a big store replenishing stock, dealing with deliveries and keeping the displays tidy. HSE team has worked the employer to improve Marie's literacy and she now completes all of her own paperwork.



Photos are not necessarily of clients referred to in this publication. Names have been changed to respect client confidentiality.

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TO, CHOICES, ENCOURAGEMENT, HOPE, FRIENDS

Wyndham Road

Wyndham Road, our Supported Living project for men with learning disabilities, was transported to the Caribbean this summer when residents held their annual fancy dress BBQ. The whole of the downstairs was decorated with the Caribbean theme – palm trees, pirates, skulls and flags! Guests, who had all come dressed as pirates, enjoyed a choice of three rum punches served in fresh pineapples with sparklers. With the men all working so hard to develop their daily living skills, improve their physical health and get into employment, the summer BBQ was an ideal chance for them to take a break and let their hair down.

All of the tenants at Wyndham Road are making good progress with work – Brian works at Cana Coffee Bar and three of the men get paid to work for SORTED! In addition to that, Brian works 2 mornings a week at Kimberly House Nursing Home and 2 afternoons a week at Milford Manor Nursing Home. James now works unsupported at Iceland, Alan does 2 hours a week at the Scope charity shop and Dave has an interview coming up for work at Scats – good luck Dave!



Exciting developments.....

We are expanding our learning disabilities services even further, with the addition of a new six-bedroom house on London Road in Salisbury. The four men who already live at Wyndham Road will be moving there, joined by two new tenants. The move is hoping to take place in January.



Meet the team.....

Shiver me timbers it's the team at Wyndham Road.

From left to right:

Michelle Cooney - *Support Worker*
Alan Scott, - *Tenant*
Richard Adlem - *Support Worker*
James Goldsmith - *Tenant*
Ruth Telford - *Project Manager*

James Patrickson (at the back) - *Support Worker*
Brian Neate (in front) - *Tenant*
Kate Alsford - *Support Worker*
Dave Claydon - *Tenant*
Richard Exteen - *Support Worker*