

VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Please welcome ...

...Alice Woodhouse at the Art group and Natalie White at Rainbow during vacations.

Jill Woodman comes to the office to provide administrative support every Wednesday afternoon and the difference is already felt and appreciated.

Kevin East is regularly supporting the computer group on Friday mornings.

Emergency Procedures

In the next few weeks you will find some new black cases in each venue. They contain important information including emergency procedures, Health & Safety information and a memo book.

Please take time each session to look at the memo book and sign the sheet to show that you have read it.

Please also look at the Emergency Folder so that if you are faced with a difficulty then you will know what to do.

In Memoriam

Victor Goode - you will all be very sad to know that recently Victor died suddenly. We knew that he had health problems but did not realise just how serious they were. He will be missed.

Fund-raising

We have never spent a great deal of time or effort on fund-raising, apart from the jumble sales. However it is now almost impossible to obtain funding from various trusts for *ongoing* work, as opposed to *new* projects.

Our grant from Croydon just about covers the three main drop-ins - for everything else we are eating very considerably into our capital.

Due to the credit crisis, our monthly interest on savings has plummeted from £145 each month to £3.53 !

So, two questions:-

1. Are you interested in joining a fund-raising group?
2. Do you have any brilliant ideas for raising a lot of money?

Refreshments

We are seriously considering raising the cost of refreshments at the drop-ins and creative workshops.

The contribution has been 20p for the last 20 years.

We will be carrying out a consultation process over the next few weeks, on the level of contribution that people think is appropriate - if you have any thoughts on this then please let me know.

New Day Care Services in Croydon

You may have heard that our tender for the new drop-ins in Croydon was not accepted. All the drop-ins have been contracted to an organisation called *Imagine*. Our own drop-ins are not affected by this. People, especially Fairfield Club and Lantern Hall members, may need support at this time.

Esther McCalden is going to New Zealand to be with her daughter, who is expecting a baby.

She will not be in the drop-ins from Friday 24th April for a few weeks and will be back on Monday 8th June.

Please be extra careful to arrive at your sessions on time. Will keyholders please ensure that you buy milk, leaving the receipt and completed petty cash voucher (coming with the Emergency Procedures folder) with the refreshment money. I will top up the other supplies.

We have become used to the luxury of depending on Esther in the evenings so we will need to be especially reliable in her absence, We wish her well for the trip and send our best wishes to her daughter and partner.



A Reminder of the Diary Dates

24th April - 5th June

Esther away in New Zealand