



Hope your Easter is filled with sweet things!

Well done, James!



Sharing in James' success story, from left to right: Toni Hamilton, CPND Development Manager; Nick Harvey, MP for North Devon; Kaye Poole, Project Manager, CRISIS; James Cullen, recipient of the award; Polly Caley, Project Manager at CPND's Bridge project; Bill Allen, CPND Director

New Project Manager for CPND's Bridge project

We welcome Polly Caley, seen in the photo on the right (second from the right), as Bridge project's Manager. Polly wrote in to us, as follows:

"Thank you all for making me so welcome at CPND. The work we do at Bridge has been a dream of mine for many years. Although as part of my former job with BPAG I had already worked closely with CPND's Housing and Support team, I hadn't realised how many other meaningful and worthwhile projects the organisation has in the community. I am bowled over by the professionalism, compassion and hard work that everyone strives for in their particular field and only hope that I can do the same at the Bridge Project. My co-workers, Debbie and Tony, have done a magnificent job in keeping the ethos of the project intact whilst awaiting a new coordinator, and have also been very supportive and patient whilst I find my way through the systems."

Bridge Project manages a home and part furnished flats, which provides recovering addicts with a safe and secure environment, with support, whilst working towards independent living.

Jigsaw Growers Event

There was much interest in CPND's Community Consultation Day, held during February, at the Pollyfield Community Centre in East-the-Water. The event was part of a planning process that was funded by Enterprise 4 Inclusion, allowing us to investigate the possibility of setting up a horticultural project in East the Water. A business plan is currently being put together and once finalised will be used to raise funds to enable the project to be implemented.



Community Projects North Devon is very proud of James Cullen, a resident of CPND's Bridge project. James was recently awarded an amount of £640 by the charity CRISIS. This has enabled James to enrol in St. Lloyes College in Exeter, where James is studying Horticulture. He stays in Exeter during the week, and returns home to Bridge over weekends. James has always enjoyed being outdoors, and in particular has a love of gardening. He is hoping, once he is fully trained, to find a suitable placement, and ideally would love to work at Rosemoor. James' achievement in receiving this award is a result of his determination to overcome personal obstacles, showing a real strength of character. Congratulations, James, and all the very best for your studies in Exeter!

New H.M.O. licensing laws

For readers who may not know, an HMO is a House in Multiple Occupation where usually 2 or more unrelated people live. The new licensing laws that are about to be brought in from the 6th of April will for North Devon include properties of 5 or more occupants and over 3 or more storeys. Amongst other regulations, landlords will be obliged to provide annual gas safety certificates; ensure safety of electrical appliances and furniture; ensure working smoke alarms, and provide written terms of occupation. It will also be a criminal offence to manage a HMO without a required licence.

CPND has referred service users, particularly under 25s to HMOs. This means that the local council will have a tighter control on what kind of properties are being rented to the general public and will hopefully raise the standard of HMOs which were once thought perhaps to be the bottom rung in the accommodation ladder.

TAKE A LOOK, TAKE A LOOK, TAKE A LOOK!

Have van, can travel!



Northdown Lodge staff were delighted to receive their almost new van which was handed over to them by Roy Haytor, the Used Car Manager at GM Coachwork Ltd. The van, purchased for the project, includes wheelchair access for 2 wheelchairs, and a step, making it easily accessible for the Learning Disabled clients who live at Northdown Lodge. The purchase of the van means that all Northdown Lodge residents can travel together on outings, whereas previously they were unable to. It has already made a real difference in their lives. Look out for the van locally as it has Northdown Lodge proudly written on the side of it.

During 2005, our Housing and Advice Services team gave advice, support and guidance to more than 700 homeless people or those threatened with homelessness. CPND is playing an important role in making a positive impact on their lives.

Helping Indian Children



Maggie and Kevin both live in CPND's CLASS training flat, a stepping stone to supporting them in a flat of their own. Both often help Maggie's mother, Maureen, with her efforts

for CHILDREN WALKING TALL, a charity which provides shelter, food and education for Indian street children. Maggie and Kevin recently helped with and enjoyed an Indian evening held at St. John's Centre, raising funds for this worthy cause.

Other CLASS activities have included planning the summer itinerary for day trips. Requests from our CLASS service users have included a shopping day at Cribbs Causeway and a visit to Beaulieu National Motor Museum.



Party lunches at the Stag Inn, Filleigh, were held to celebrate the birthdays of CLASS service users, Roy, who turned 66 in January, and Alfred (pictured at his home, left, recently), who turned 83 in March. Vanessa, who turned 67, invited friends to a birthday meal near her home. Happy birthday to all of you!

CPND welcomes new service users who are being supported by the CLASS team. Jennie moved into a flat in the Medard House complex, and Trevor and Clare are envied for the beautiful river views which they have from their flat window on Castle Quay. The CPND CLASS team looks forward to getting to know them better.

CLASS Advocacy group enjoyed their annual dinner, held in December, at the Fortesque Hotel, Barnstaple. 35 CLASS service users and staff all received a present, and much fun was had by all. Thanks to Judith Crooks who organised the event.

The Homeless Poet

There is no doubt that many of our readers will have heard the well quoted phrase:

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?"

Readers may also be aware that this is taken from a poem called Leisure by W.H. Davies who lived from 1871-1940. Did you know that this well known Welsh poet spent some part of his life as a homeless person?

His autobiography is called "Autobiography of a Supertramp", which indeed he was. His life was a colourful one, and despite, or perhaps because of, his homelessness, he had a deep understanding of what issues in life are important.

Find the whole poem, and his autobiography in your local library, or take a look at www.englishverse.com and search for W.H. Davies.

Thought for today: Do not speak of a rhinoceros if there is no tree nearby! (Zulu proverb)

Pieces is edited by Toni Hamilton, Development Manager. We hope you have enjoyed reading it.

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