

News from the Olive Branch Community Café

Fun and games in Hillington Square

The sun shone on 30th July when the first Community Fête took place in Hillington Square. It was organised by Purfleet's Sam Fox, the Manager of the Community Café, run by the Purfleet Trust with funding from Enable East's Wellbeing in the East programme. Sam was delighted by the fête's success and told the Lynn News that "everyone said what a great atmosphere there was and we really achieved our goal of encouraging a community spirit by getting everyone to come out and have fun." The bouncy castle was a great hit with the children and the café's burger bar and ice cream stall did a roaring trade, while other local charities also had stalls. Around £600 was raised for Purfleet funds. The Mayor and Mayoress attended, as shown in the picture below. Sam is kneeling front left.

well-being in the east



Picture courtesy of the Lynn News



A very warm welcome to two new members of staff



Mandy Mills, our new receptionist, pictured here in the newly-whitewashed courtyard, joined us in the middle of July and immediately became one of the team. She has quickly established herself as the first point of contact at Purfleet and combines her duties as receptionist with admin work for several members of staff. She even ran a coconut shy at the Community Fete. Welcome aboard, Mandy!

Operations Manager, Davina Rudd, is the newest member of the team, having started at Purfleet on 11th August. This is a new post in which Davina will be second-in-command to Paula and responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the Centre and managing the various projects run by the organisation. She is really looking forward to helping Paula take the organisation forward and achieve our future objectives.



News from the Housing Team

The Housing Team recently introduced drop-in sessions and find that this has greatly improved attendance for housing appointments. They have managed to assist a number of people into accommodation in the last two months, finding rooms in private shared-houses, hostels and Purfleet's training houses, Phoenix House and The Oaks. Two of the Phoenix House tenants have found employment, while other tenants are actively engaged in the Jog On programme. Recently new challenges have arisen. One is the difficulty in finding accommodation for single people under 35 year olds, for whom there is ever decreasing provision, while tougher sanctions imposed on people on JSA and ESA can put tenants at risk of eviction and have led to a reduction in the number of landlords willing to accept tenants on benefit.

The case study below illustrates the difference the work of the Housing Team has made to one person's life.

One happy customer and a Great Result for the Housing Team

Brian is 58 and found himself homeless at the beginning of the year when he returned to King's Lynn from Paderborn in Germany at the request of his son who needed his help. It meant he had to give up



his job in a restaurant which included accommodation, as well as a life which he enjoyed. His first port of call on his return to King's Lynn was Job Centre Plus, where he learned to his dismay that because he had been out of the country for two years he was not entitled to any financial support whatsoever to keep him going while he looked for employment.

After a few days sofa surfing and sleeping rough, a friendly policeman directed Brian to Merchants' Terrace, where he was allowed to stay. He was also put in touch with the Purfleet Trust and was very glad to be able to use the Pathways Centre during the day and receive food parcels from the Food-bank. While the hostel offered Brian a welcome refuge, he was anxious to find more secure accommodation and was very grateful to Jelena at the Purfleet Trust for her support and guidance in relation to housing and benefits.

In what seemed to him no time at all Jelena had also found him a room and helped him to process his new claim for housing benefit. In fact, Jelena had

worked hard to find proof that he had been in the country for more than three months and was therefore entitled to claim benefits. The Housing Team managed to get confirmation of his arrival date in Britain from the ferry company he used to travel from Germany, but it took another six weeks for the appeal to be approved.

Brian says: *"I am so grateful to the Staff at Purfleet who have made this possible for me ... and I am so relieved to know that I now have my own space and haven! My room is fully equipped with all the necessary facilities and goods required for daily living.. While I was at the hostel it was a wrench knowing I had to be in and out at set times and the inconveniences of carting heavy luggage around with you on a day to day basis proved very stressful and a security concern and especially worrying during bad weather.*

The Purfleet Trust have helped me so much and increased my motivation dramatically and I am a much happier person and the Food Bank has been a life saver. I have built up a wide social network of friends and participated in many of the activities on offer at the Day Centre, which has helped me use my time effectively and constructively. Mandie and Vicki between them have assisted me in terms of opening up my chances of employment by registering me on Universal Job Match so I can job search regularly to find out possible job opportunities to suit my skills and abilities. I am currently completing my CV which will be sent out to prospective employers in due course."

Health and Wellbeing update

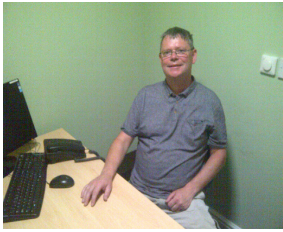
We have just come to the end of our third successful Pathway to Wellbeing Workshop. Health trainers, Mind and Norfolk Recovery Project all delivered an informative session as part of the workshop. Learners enjoyed producing a healthy, affordable meal as a group and sitting down together to eat it. We also organised a bus trip to Hunstanton and enjoyed a day at the beach.

The workshop encourages people to engage in activities that will improve their mental wellbeing, physical activity and healthy eating.-

Mandie Lewis Health and Wellbeing Support Worker



Volunteering in Action



Hello, my name is Peter Durrant, I am 53 years old and have been volunteering at the Purfleet Trust since January, and I'm really

enjoying working here. I was interested in filling my spare time constructively, helping other people and at the same time to learning new skills for myself. In the long term I aim to find paid work in a similar field.

I chose to do voluntary work with the homeless, as this is an area of work which complements my beliefs. A friend of mine does similar work for 'Shelter' in London over the festive Season - serving Christmas Dinner and helping the vulnerable feel part of society, at a time when many are excluded.

The Purfleet Trust was recommended to me by Jonathan Toye at the West Norfolk Disability Information Service (WNDIS). "Purfleet Trust do wonderful work" said Jonathan. Toni Pegg contacted me through a request from West

Norfolk Volunteer Community Action (WNVCA) and I was invited for an interview. After looking through the options, I knew the Housing Office was where I wanted to employ my time. The Housing Services staff, Sam Easthall and Jelena Golceva have been very supportive, sharing their experience and knowledge. There are occasions when I work with other departments within the organisation, such as the Pathways Centre and the Pathways to Inclusion Project. I find the staff very approachable and friendly.

Our 'service users' have varied support needs, and my overall impression of Purfleet Trust is one of professionalism, using the resources available to each department in an intelligent way. The training courses I have attended have also been very useful. I really feel that Purfleet do a fantastic job under difficult circumstances. Considering all these factors, I wish to thank Purfleet for the support they have given to me and others during my time here.

Are you interested in volunteering?

If you are we have many roles that you can fill.

Please contact Toni Pegg at The Purfleet Trust on 01553 767829 for more information



News from the Foodbank

Foodbank stocks were quite low in June but a recent 3 Day National Drive between Tesco and the Trussell Trust saw levels rise again due to the huge generosity of people in Kings Lynn. The College of West Anglia helped out too when a Care and Childhood Studies group raised £404.38 following their recent Enterprise Event. They then went to a local supermarket and bought 5 trolley loads of food which they delivered and donated to Foodbank. The table below demonstrates how valuable a resource the Foodbank is for the local community.

	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
No. of vouchers	181	265	198	167
Adults fed	238	337	264	212
Children fed	84	168	89	75
Total people fed	322	505	353	287

News from our Supporters and Partners

Tulip community project



Our courtyard has had a revamp thanks to the lovely Kylie from Tulip and her helpers. The lads from Tulip worked on the courtyard for two days turning it into a lovely bright jolly place for the clients to sit in and relax. The courtyard now has lots of lovely flowers, a gravelled area as well as an arbour for the clients to sit on and ponder. The lads are all doing an employment course through Tulip and I am very pleased to say that Tulip has now decided to take them all on as employees.

Thank you so much to Kylie and her team for all your hard work! *Toni Pegg*



Dersingham W.I. deliver the goods

Angie Callaghan visited Dersingham WI recently and gave a brief talk on what we do at Purfleet. She was made very welcome by a wonderful group of ladies and was delighted to be presented with a variety of food and beautiful knitted products for fundraising events. Some of the ladies are pictured with their gifts.

We should like to thank the ladies of the Dersingham WI for choosing us as their charity and for all their support through out the year.



Thanks to donations from St. Nicholas Men's Group in Dersingham, and Hilary Hickman from Middleton, we have been able to purchase toiletries for both men and women to help them have a really fresh start when they move into new accommodation.



For him



For her

But we are still in need of toiletries for our clients here at the drop in centre, and would much appreciate any donation of deodorants, toothpaste, tooth brushes, body wash, soap, shampoo/conditioners that you may be able to provide

We are very grateful to Norbury's of King's Lynn who supply us with their excellent bread on a regular basis. Here Mandie receives a loaf from Bob Dye.



Purfleet Friends

Many thanks and congratulations to Kim, Tanya and Miriam for running two successful fundraising events recently: the Bingo night in June and the Stow Hall Garden event on 1st July. Between them these two events raised nearly £1000. A fantastic result!