

Activities

There are a lot of activities scheduled throughout Spring and Summer for the people we support.

Ice Skating is very popular with the people we support, and Beeching Way provide healthy packed lunches for all those who attend. The monthly sessions are giving everyone a chance to build up their confidence on the ice. The people we support can choose between skates or a sled that the support workers pull round the rink. Next skating dates are:

- 11th May
- 8th June
- 13th July
- 14th September



John Lubbock has very kindly organised two concerts for the people we support to attend: The first is on 20th April at Seacourt Hall, Oxford whereby the Russian folk band Yarmaka are performing along with traditional dancing. The second will take place on 8th May with the Orchestra of St John performing at Dorchester Abbey at 11.30am.

Kingwood Tuesday Club meets every other Tuesday evening at 7pm at Wallingford Methodist Church Hall. About 10-15 people we support attend each session to meet with friends, have some fun, enjoy a drink and a snack, play bingo and join in the disco dance competition.

In February, Daniel Crook and Kevin Smith were our Karaoke Stars and on St Patrick's Day a meal was enjoyed at the Bell pub in Crowmarsh. The next Tuesday Club is 14th April and will run every fortnight after this – we also look forward also to our Summer Barbecue at Shillingford Bridge in June.



The 'Regatta for the disabled' will take place in Henley on Thames on 5th September. We are hoping to pull together a dragon boat team of 11 people; a mixture of staff and people we support. On the day there will be boat trips and stalls, music and food to keep everyone entertained.

The Kingwood AGM is on the 9th July at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley on Thames. Kingwood is delighted to have as the guest speaker Anna Kennedy who you might recognise from 'The Peoples Strictly'. The evening will commence with coffees and teas from 5.30pm and the meeting will begin at 6pm. It will be followed with a buffet supper. ASDAN certificates will be presented and the winners of this years photo competition will be announced.

Kingwood have organised several boat trips for the people we support; there will be an AM and PM sailing from Caversham on the 29th April and from Eynsham (Oxford) on the 15th May.

Some of the people we support will be attending the New Forest Spectrum Music Festival on 10-12th July. A three day music festival for people on the autistic spectrum, day tickets £80 and weekend tickets are £120, carers go free. <http://newforestpectrum.org>.

And finally... the Oxford Sailing club holds weekly disabled sailing sessions on Tuesday evenings from April to October, 6pm at Farmoor Reservoir. Contact Pam Gee — Tel: 01865 862386. for more information.



kingwood

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Making it happen



World Autism Awareness Day

On April 2nd 2015 Kingwood took part in World Autism Awareness Day, a United Nations recognised day for promoting and publicising autism. Various activities and events took place with landmarks around the world turning their lighting blue for the day or projecting puzzle piece emblems onto to their buildings.

Kingwood held a breakfast morning for the local businesses whereby people we support helped to prepare hot crumpets, muffins and doughnuts. These were then delivered to the businesses who had pre-ordered breakfast. We had prepared a leaflet with essential autism information that was handed out with the breakfast and people across the autistic spectrum took part in delivery, introducing themselves and thereby raising awareness.

Elsewhere, we used our main Facebook account to hold a selfie competition! People were encouraged to dress in blue and write a statement about themselves or about autism. We had a fantastic response from people we support and from Kingwood employees. The winners of the prizes were: Julie Harmsworth for the blue smurf selfie and Laura for selfie telling us about her and her preferences.

The Beeching Way staff team dressed in blue for the day and had a karaoke party in the evening. Many of our other services also dressed in blue for the day. Thank you to all those who joined in Kingwood's celebration. Next years world autism awareness day falls on a Saturday, if you have ideas of how you think Kingwood can celebrate it please get in touch.



Selfie MY NAME IS LAURA



- I love singing in Rock Choir
- I love Watching American Tv Series
- I love asking questions
- I love twittering
- I love going to theme parks
- I like to know my routine
- I like volunteering

- I don't like loud music
- I don't like surprises
- I don't like feeling anxious
- I don't like insects
- I don't like traveling on planes



A selection of photos from World Autism Awareness day, you can see more on Kingwood's Facebook page.

Pancake Race

Kingwood took part in the annual Mayor's pancake race in Henley-on-Thames on the 17th February. It was a brilliant day which pitted Kingwood against the Sue Ryder team and the Mayor's team.



The team were anxious about having to run and flip pancakes at the same time, but glided to an easy victory over their competitors.

The team each won a bottle of pancake batter and shared a bottle of wine as the prize for the best fancy dress.

The team consisted of Lynn Longland, Liz Sandith, Julie Harmsworth and Sarah Rawling

Kingwood also took part in the press opportunity with the Mayor.



Tosha, one of the people we support, very much enjoyed having his picture taken with the Mayor

Kingwood would like to thank the Mayor for organising the event.

Fundraising

A group of 10 staff and 3 people we support will be taking part in the Royal Berkshire 10k race on the 17th May, at Green Park, Reading. A Just Giving page has been set up to raise money as a group. www.justgiving.com/kingwood-10krun/

A group of supporters will be there on the day to cheer everyone on and provide refreshments for the team. Three students from the college will be taking part with their support workers and they hope to make it around the course in the 2 hours allotted time. It is a great challenge for

everyone and a nice way to raise money as a group. The money raised will go towards activities and events for all the people we support.

We are also seeking funding for 2 cars and Kingwood has received generous donations from The Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund, The Shanley Foundation and the Thomas J Horne Memorial Trust. The donations we have received so far will enable us to purchase 1 of the 2 cars so that the people we support can access the community with greater ease.

Management Structure Changes

Kingwood commenced a review of the management structure towards the end of 2014. As our reputation has grown the number of people Kingwood supports has doubled in the last 2 years. We now provide support to just over 100 people with autism and it is essential that we have in place the right structure to ensure the quality of the support we provide continues to be high.

We are delighted to introduce the new position of Autism Practice Manager. The position was advertised internally and been awarded to Eleri Booth who was previously an Area Manager. Eleri

will work directly with the operational teams to set up new services; reinforce the Kingwood support approach through further building on autism knowledge and understanding of a positive behavior support (PBS) approach and work alongside the Psychology Team to undertake behavioral analysis.

Our commitment to the provision of quality services is further strengthened through the introduction of a Quality Improvement & HR Manager. This role will aid or the organisation to ensure that people with autism receive support that excels in each of the 5 CQC areas; Safe, Caring, Effective, Responsive and

Well Led. The new role will also provide strategic HR direction and identify long term needs of recruitment and training for the staff.

Area Manager posts have been advertised for the Reading & Oxfordshire area, and central Oxfordshire.

Other staffing changes include promotion for Lynn Longland to Senior HR Officer and Julie Harmsworth has taken a permanent contract for two days per week as a HR Administrator.

New roles are advertised on our website.

Family Charter

Included with the newsletter is your copy of the Kingwood Family Charter. It was presented at the parents and families meeting at the Christmas party and has since been finalised with the comments discussed at the party. The next parents and Families meeting is on the 12th May at Kingwood Head Office from 6.30pm.

New service

Kingwood have been working collaboratively with Response to opened a new 3 person service in Bicester. The new service opened in March 2015 and is led by Danielle Beaumont-Orr. We are currently recruiting for a Support Team Co-ordinator to manage the day to day running of the service. We have successfully assisted the three men, with co-morbidity diagnoses of Asperger Syndrome and mental health difficulties, to move back into the community.

New Technology

Kingwood are embracing technology, we have created our own QR Code that we will use it on materials related to our job adverts, we will also be able to create one for the other publications we produce so that people will be able to download the digital version to their phones.

The QR code opposite takes you to the Kingwood front page, you will need to download a QR reader to your phone.



Pat Smith

It is with sadness that inform you that on the 10th of February a valued member of the Kingwood Support Worker team, Pat Smith, died.

She was a big part of the Horspath team where she had worked since 2004 and had transferred to the bank team in the last 2 years. She will be sorely missed by everyone who worked with her and by the people she supported.



Easter

On March 31st Kingwood organised an Easter Party for the people we support at the Head Office. Drawing on the success from last year's party and feedback from the People we Support Forum, we held our annual egg hunt where people we support were challenged to find a picture of their face in the office and exchange it for a chocolate egg.

There was craft fun for people to make Easter cards and chocolate nests. Approximately 25 people we support joined us during the day and the training room was transformed into a disco.

The people we support had a great time and it was wonderful to see them dancing and enjoying the activities.

