

# Wilberforce Matters

## Spring 2008



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

### General Manager's Report

We have now largely settled into our new premises in Huntington, and some of you will already have visited us here. Hopefully you agree with us that they are much more accessible than our previous base on Northminster Business Park, and we are certainly finding the additional space offered very advantageous. Work is ongoing to improve access to the building for those with disabilities, and in particular for those with visual impairments.

We were delighted to have the Lord Mayor of York, the Sheriff of York and the Sheriff's Lady present on 4<sup>th</sup> March to mark the official launch of the York Integrated Low Vision Service and the opening of our new premises. A further event to introduce the new premises to tenants, staff and volunteers is also planned.



Since we began planning for the move we seem to have been extremely busy here at the Trust. Those of you who have moved house will recognise the trials and tribulations of such an exercise, and it is fair to say that our experience was no less trying. Much credit goes to the team here for their hard work in making the move a success.

Once we had moved in, the workload seemed to increase still further, with preparations for the launch of the York Integrated Low Vision Service, a 12 month pilot hosted at Wilberforce House, and delivered in partnership with statutory and voluntary, local and national organisations. Further information about the service can be found later in this edition of Wilberforce Matters and in the accompanying leaflet.

In addition to this exciting development, we are also in the throes of developing a new supported housing service in Tadcaster for two people, this will facilitate further tenant changes at the Wighill Garth Services and in total we expect to introduce four new people to our services at Tadcaster in the course of the year.

We hope to commission a survey of people with sight loss in the region in the coming months to identify services, which they would like to have available to them, and which the Trust might provide either independently, or in further partnership working arrangements. As a pre-cursor to this we are already discussing with a number of local agencies, opportunities to develop accredited training in visual impairment for our own staff, and the wider public, and training in IT skills for people with sight loss.

The past few months have certainly been a bit of a roller coaster, and with the developments planned for the rest of the year, there is little indication that the workload will ease significantly, which certainly serves to keep life interesting!

### Design Guide Launched

In the course of 2007, the Trust was pleased to contribute to the creation of a design guide, aimed at architects, designers, builders and others involved in housing, covering every aspect of making a home easier and safer to live in. The guide - "*Housing for People with Sight Loss – A Thomas Pocklington Trust Design Guide*" – is the first comprehensive guidance to draw on extensive research with visually impaired people and details over a hundred ways that good housing design can improve the lives of people with poor sight. Full of practical recommendations, it shows how to design out potential obstacles by considering such things as the way doors open, the shape of hall turns, and the type of hinges that will best reduce hazards. It highlights the use of texture and contrast, and explains the need to avoid high shine surfaces which cause glare. It offers simple solutions to the problems of wayfinding, how to use light to enhance low-levels of sight, and the best shapes and sizes of controls, handles, and taps.

The Guide is launched this month as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Pocklington Trust.

Further information on the Guide and the Thomas Pocklington Trust, can be found on their website at [www.pocklington-trust.org.uk](http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk)

## Volunteer News

We are delighted to welcome seven new volunteers who will help within our York services and to congratulate three 'experienced' ones on having completed ten years of volunteering with the Trust. I think this clearly demonstrates the diversity of our volunteer group – a dedicated group of people, many of whom who have been with us for a considerable period of time but with new people joining in. A group of people of all ages and backgrounds sharing their skills, time and friendship with the tenants.

There have recently been three surveys published that looked at the state of volunteering in this country. They made fascinating reading. Whilst it is interesting to look at such surveys they often pose more questions than they answer. But they do encourage us all to look closely at our own experiences of volunteering – and what a positive one it is for the Trust with volunteers.

Over the last few months we have held a General Volunteers Evening in our new offices, started another round of House Volunteer Meetings as well as having individual volunteers undertaking further training in order to increase support for 'their' tenants.

A group of volunteers and staff enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Mansion House in late March. We were extremely grateful to the Civic Party for giving up their evening to show us the treasures of that wonderful building and tell us something of their roles and experiences. A further volunteer/staff event will be planned for later in the year.

Our sincere thanks go to each and every one of our volunteers. Your involvement is very greatly appreciated by us all. Thank you.

### Thanks

The Trust would like to record its sincere thanks to all those who have supported the Trust in so many ways already this year. We would like especially to thank:

- The Carol Singers of Askham Bryan and Nether and Upper Poppleton, Wilberfoss Yorkshire Country Women's Association, Northern Gas Networks, St Everilda's Coffee Drinkers and all those others who have sent donations.
- Norwich Union for their interest and extremely generous donation towards specialist equipment for our York services
- Poppleton Cameo Group for making the Trust their charity of last year.
- Monkhill Confectionary for their continuing support.
- Peter Whitaker and members of York Lions for running a very successful Quiz Night for us.
- Members of the 100 Club for 2008/2009 for their support – good luck to all of them in future draws.
- The Rotary Club of York Ainsty for their continuing gardening help.

Thank you to each and every one of them – their support and interest is very valuable and very much appreciated.

### Dates for your diary

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May  | Track 29 Concert at St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Tadcaster Road at 7-30pm. Tickets are available now from Wilberforce House at £5.00, including coffee and biscuits. |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May    | BUPA Great Manchester 10k Run. The Trust has 15 people taking part this year and our thanks to them all.   |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June   | York Hospital Charity Stall – could you spare an hour to help?   |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June | Tadcaster Market Stall – offers of baking and preserves would be very greatly appreciated.   |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June   | Wilberforce Trust Sponsored Walk – watch for more details.   |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July   | Complete Clothing Company Fashion Show– watch for details, but please book the date in your diary.   |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July   | York Dragon Boat Race – Tombola stalls – offers of prizes would be very greatly appreciated.   |

If you would like more information about any of the above or would like to buy tickets or offer help, please contact Barbara Kendall at Wilberforce House – 01904 760037 or email [b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk](mailto:b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk)



*John and Beryl Benson with the Lord Mayor and Sheriff during the Volunteer/Staff visit to the Mansion House.*

### **Service Managers Report**

The Trust has now purchased a further property in Tadcaster and we hope to open our third service in the locality by Autumn 2008. This service will be for two people and is situated just on the outskirts of the A64 York/Tadcaster bypass. The bungalow needs a lot of updating and refurbishment and the Trust is currently working with architects to tender for the necessary works. Recruitment for the new service is likely to begin in July with a view to recruiting as many staff as necessary prior to the service opening. This will enable the appropriate staff training to take place and staff to support the clients with their actual move.

We are also looking at developing our management team in the locality and appoint a Locality Manager for the Tadcaster services in much the same way as we currently have a Locality Manager to oversee the York services. The Trust hopes to be in a position to advertise this post very soon and have the successful applicant in post by end of May/ early June.

The York services are continuously trying to improve the lifestyle and skills of the tenants with the support of the rehab service. Some of the tenants have already had support from the new low vision service. At present we have a social work student who is on placement with us who is going into a couple of our services to meet with some of the tenants to get an insight into what it is like for people to live in our services.

A few staff have been brave enough to volunteer, and enable a couple of the tenants to compete in the Manchester Run, so please support everyone generously and wish them well!!



*Opening Day at Wilberforce House*

### **News from No 4 Wighill Garth**

Congratulation to Sharon Mars who has been appointed our new Assistant Manager.

Spring has come which means longer days, so we can all get out and about more. We have had some trips out already, shopping and meals, etc.

We have trips planned to the zoo, bowling, more shopping (smile) and we are also arranging a holiday to Centre Parcs again, as everyone had such a good time last year.

We are all looking forward to our new client who is joining us at the end of April. We also may have two new staff joining the team in May.

All the tenants have had their bedroom decorated and they look very nice. Now the plan is to decorate the hall and the lounge.

Congratulations to Tony and his wife Claire who have had a baby girl, Isabel, born on 31st March; also to Nikki (Night staff) who has just found out she is having a baby in November.

### **Hello from West View Close**

We are all looking forward to some sunshine. Marie has booked a break at Donna Clare for two weeks and is looking forward to this. She has had a day at Scarborough and won a radio to listen to in the garden.

Pauline is ok but sad about the Day Centre Closure. She is looking forward to a holiday hopefully in Jersey or Holland. She is enjoying threading beads and must be up to one hundred chains.

Carol has now got a new addition to her family – a new niece. She is happy to look after her niece and nephew. She is also thinking about this year's holiday.

Lesley is enjoying College and Age Concern. She is getting to be a good cook and getting quite independent.

We welcome two new staff to West View – Sue and Tanya. Katie will be back from her holiday to Thailand soon with lots of photos.

**We would be delighted to hear what you think about our newsletter.**

**If you would like us to send a copy to someone else — just contact Barbara Kendall at the Trust offices by telephoning 01904 760037 or email [b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk](mailto:b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk)**

### **Aldwark News**

Hello from everyone at Aldwark. We hope you all have had a nice winter, and fingers crossed we are in for a hot and sunny summer.

Both Gordon and Colin have been keeping themselves fit with their weekly swimming and have been busy in the kitchen baking.

Colin celebrated his 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the beginning of April. He has continued to enjoy visiting Wilberforce House to do all his gardening jobs.

Since the last Wilberforce Matters Gordon has enjoyed a long weekend break in London. He went to the 'We Will Rock You' musical when he was there. He is also looking forward to a week's holiday in May when he goes to Blackpool.

### **2 Wighill Garth**

We have been quiet up at 2 Wighill Garth, sleeping the long winter nights away. Our tenants have been going about their daily life attending Hydro sessions, the Prison gymnasium and enjoying the Music Ladies visits.

They have been out for meals and one tenant had a very enjoyable day out at Leeds Bradford Airport.

Three of the tenants celebrated their birthdays in April. One went home for an afternoon with the family, one had a birthday celebration in the house and the other one is planning a trip out for the end of the month.

All the staff and tenants look forward to a long warm summer with lots of activities out and about. We shall keep you informed.

### **Going to the Mansion House**

One Monday morning I went with other tenants and staff, to the Mansion House. We met the Lord Mayor in the State Room. We were told the history of the House and shown the Lord Mayor's Chain of Office.

We all enjoyed ourselves and were made very welcome. Thank you to the Lord Mayor and Sheriff's lady. Keiran Townsend, Glenridding.

### **Newlands Happenings**

We are all looking forward to some nice weather after our recent snow flurries.

We have all been very busy. It seems there have been more social events than ever. We have been to parties, shows, out for some lovely meals and day trips and of course consumed some nice wine.

Caroline and Kristine are in training for the Great Manchester Run, so all sponsorship is greatly appreciated. Good luck to everyone taking part from all at Newlands.

Sally is very pleased after becoming an Auntie for the first time to her lovely nephew Oliver Benjamin who arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### **News from Shipton Road**

Robert and Richard have been on a number of trips to the Grand Opera House, which they both thoroughly enjoyed, especially the ice creams.

Richard enjoyed dragging Claire round the shops in both Leeds and Newcastle when they went for days out. He enjoyed the train journeys, but best of all the half of lager and a lime in a pub.

Carole and Sheila are planning a holiday abroad this year, as Sheila has never been on a plane.

Pauline enjoyed her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, as it was nice for her to see all her family and friends together. She would like to thank everyone for coming.

Robert has enjoyed a number of visits from Chrissie, our Rehabilitation Worker, to help him with his mobility. They have been into town and enjoyed a full English breakfast. Robert is very grateful to Chrissie for her help.

We are all looking forward to the summer so we can arrange some BBQ parties, which we will let you know about.

### **Justgiving.com**

You may now make donations to the Trust on the internet through the justgiving website.

[www.justgiving.com/wilberforcetrust/supportus](http://www.justgiving.com/wilberforcetrust/supportus) is the web page you will find us and you may make a donation through our dedicated donation service:  
[www.justgiving.com/wilberforcetrust/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/wilberforcetrust/donate)

## **The Wilberforce Trust**

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