

# Wilberforce Matters

## Spring 2009



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

### General Manager's Comment

Christmas is now well behind us, though the surprisingly seasonal weather reminds us that Spring may still be some distance away.

This edition of Wilberforce Matters reports on the success of the Integrated Low Vision Pilot, and the developments within the new Bridge to Vision (York) project. Key to both of these services is the need to secure longer term funding to ensure the continuation of the services beyond the pilot phase. One of the main learning points for us in facilitating these pilots is that 12 months is often too short a time to allow us to gather the evidence needed to convince statutory funding agencies of the benefits of longer term commissioning of the services. We are nonetheless working closely with colleagues in social services and health to gain their commitment to funding the services, despite the constraints on their own budgets and we hope to report positively on this in the near future.

Computer skills training is progressing well with demands for the training growing and colleagues from the council's Adult and Community Education department planning to run a second weekly session.

Two further developments since Christmas include the start of a tenants' cookery group and the opening of the new supported living service in Tadcaster, both of which are covered in more detail within this edition. Trustees are currently debating the future strategy for the Trust and their thinking will inevitably be influenced by the recent developments in the Trust's services, many of which have been the result of partnership working with other agencies. Once the new strategy is agreed, we'll report on it fully in Wilberforce Matters, but what does seem clear even at this stage is that we wish to continue to be instrumental in the development of services for people with visual impairments and additional disabilities, both in York and further afield.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Trust's developments and look forward to reporting on these and further developments in the next edition of Wilberforce Matters.

*Keith McKee*

### Accommodation Services

On the 12<sup>th</sup> January the Trust opened its third service in Tadcaster. The service has been developed to support the needs of two people with autism. One was an existing tenant; the second service user was referred to us via social services care management.

The service clearly required extensive planning and many people both internal and external to the Trust were involved with its development. This gave the Trust a great opportunity to develop stronger links with external agencies and continue to raise its profile as a provider of specialist services.

Within the Tadcaster locality, by the end of February, the Trust will also have achieved full occupancy in the Wighill Garth Services for the first time since we took them over in January 2006.

The Trust has also undergone a recent inspection by Commission for Social Care Inspection. Feedback was positive, particularly from service users, who agreed to take part in the assessment process. The full inspection report will be made available to all via the CSCI website in due course.

## Rehabilitation News

The Rehabilitation team continues to keep busy in and around the region promoting independence for visually impaired people. Chrissie was expected to be back in York from January, but she will now be remaining in the East Riding fulfilling contracted rehabilitation work from the Beverley office due to recruitment difficulties there. Likewise Jane is also flying the Wilberforce flag providing rehabilitation services to the Selby area on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council.

The York Integrated Low Vision service reaches the end of its 12 month pilot scheme at the end of February. The exact future of this service is still to be determined but all partners agree that it offers a valued and quality community service providing a real alternative to hospital based services. Results from a recent patient survey provided glowing reports from people who had experienced the clinic first hand. Many commented on their high satisfaction levels and regarded the service as friendly, helpful and professional. We are all hoping that there will be a future for the clinic and that the skills and expertise we have nurtured here will not be lost. Alternative funding is being sought and we anxiously await responses.

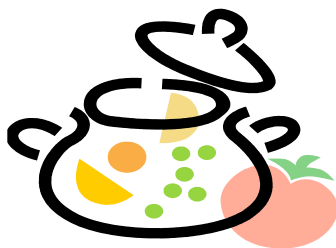
Meanwhile, the Bridge to Vision (York) project, being undertaken by Karen McGregor (RNIB), is gaining strength as she works to ensure take up of eye health checks for people with a learning disability. Karen is busy setting up some training days here at Wilberforce House aimed at people working with her client group. She is also spending time getting to know individuals and accompanying them when their eyes are tested. The results of the optometrists examination are put into a very comprehensive user-friendly report which Karen then can share with family or carers of those being tested.

The computer sessions in our IT suite are also proving very popular and the tutors, Angela and Karen are now considering putting on an extra session to meet demand!

We also wish Martin Heppell, one of our support staff, the best of luck as he embarks on his final placement as a student rehabilitation worker in a neighbouring local authority. Over the next few months he will be translating all his new skills and theories into practice in real life settings. We look forward to welcoming him back in the early summer no doubt exhausted but nevertheless enthusiastic to get to grips with rehabilitation at the Trust!

If you would like more information about these services please contact Margaret Daley, Rehabilitation Service Manager at Wilberforce House.

### Cookery comes to the Wilberforce



Since January six tenants from different Trust houses have been taking part in a new cookery course. Caroline, Colin, June, Keiran, Lesley and Pauline are all working hard, learning new things from food hygiene to the different nutrients food contain.

The group has made a variety of dishes from cous-cous salad to chicken satay and mousaka. Gordon Ramsey watch out!

### Watch out for the new Tenants' Magazine

After discussions with the tenants it is proposed to produce a tenants' magazine that will in part take some of the house news away from Wilberforce Matters. This will come out about four times a year. All the tenants will meet at Wilberforce House every three months and over a coffee will produce their magazine contributions.

The idea is to cover a variety of topics including household tips, travel/holidays, recipes, good food guide, beauty, gardening tips, and a gossip section. There will also be a list of what's coming up next and a competition corner.

The tenants are really enthusiastic about having their own magazine. Thanks go to Debbie Arundale and Nicky Cooper for their involvement. If you would like a copy of this new publication, then please contact Barbara at the office.

### **Hello from The Garlands**

The Trust's new service opened its doors on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in Tadcaster and a breath of fresh air and excitement filled the two tenants' new home. We are only four weeks on and already the two ladies Sue and Sandra are settled in and really enjoying their new lives.

Incredible changes have taken place for them both and I could never have visualized what they would achieve in such a short time, baking, outings and various activities in the house. Sue has developed her own jobs such as setting the table and wiping the table down after meals. (A fantastic achievement!)

Special thanks to Caroline Hide and my lovely new Staff Team for all their hard work and support which has made me possibly the Trust's proudest House Manager at this time.

Thanks to Ken Garland who kindly allowed us to give the service his name, in honour of his many years of support given to the Trust and all their many tenants.

Finally thanks to Sue and Sandra for being so adaptable and making our jobs so enjoyable and worthwhile. Your smiles make our day.

*Hilda Brittlebank*—House Manager



### **The Friends of The Wilberforce Trust**

The Friends of the Wilberforce Trust was initiated as a result of interest in and support of the Trust shown by many people who do not necessarily want to have an active involvement in the Trust.

The group aims:

- To promote a greater awareness of the Trust and its work among a wide audience within the local and extended community.
- To identify, and enlist, influential and knowledgeable contacts that could provide, when needed, informed advice to both Trustees and staff.
- To provide a channel for regular news updates about the Trust's work.
- To provide an opportunity for people to feel involved and valued for the interest and support they show.

In line with its aims, the Trust is to hold a meeting for such interested people on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at Wilberforce House. The evening will be a time to learn more about the Trust's current work and possible future projects. It will also be a time to learn more about our Low Vision services as outlined in the last issue of Wilberforce Matters.

Those people who have already expressed an interest in the Friends will receive an invitation. If you would be interested in coming along to this event please contact either Keith or Barbara at the Trust offices as soon as possible.

### **Fundraising Events**

Saturday 4 April	Spring Fayre – see Included information
Sunday 17 May	BUPA Great Manchester Run
Wednesday 10 Jun	St Crux Fundraising Day
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	York Dragon Boat Race Tombola Stall
Thursday 23 July	Tadcaster Charity Market Stall
Thursday 27 August	York Hospital Stall – a variety of items for sale
Tuesday 15 September	Complete Clothing Fashion Evening

Please see included leaflet for more information about our Spring Fayre and the charity places we have available for the BUPA Great Manchester Run.

If you would like more details of our fundraising activities please contact [b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk](mailto:b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk) or ring 01904 760037

### **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)

## Volunteers

The end of February sees Student Volunteering Week with its theme 'Celebrating Success, Overcoming Challenges'. The week serves to raise the profile of Further and Higher Education student volunteering. This is very much in the public domain at present with various government initiatives and the Prime Minister's aim to increase student volunteering by a third in the next five years.

Students come to volunteering for a variety of reasons. A spokesman for Student Volunteering England quoted in the report '21<sup>st</sup> Century Volunteer' by nfpSynergy, says that though students list a variety of motives for volunteering, including employability, they still list 'making a difference' as their primary motivation.

Over the years the Trust has had many student volunteers, as indeed we do now. Many come from schools/universities with which we have had a long association – indeed many come because of the experience friends and peers have had with the Trust. They come with enthusiasm, openness and a willingness to 'make a difference'. They give very willingly of their time and energies and are committed to the people they support. We thank each and every one of our student volunteers and wish them 'Happy Student Volunteering Week'.

2009 started with a rousing Volunteers' Evening. Volunteers joined the Music Night group and other tenants for an evening of fun, music and fellowship. Thanks to our volunteers who run Music Night throughout the year and especially for their hard 'work' for that evening.

Congratulations go to a volunteer from Newlands Drive who has just celebrated 10 years with the Trust – we thank her for her commitment, dedication and friendship over those years. Indeed our thanks go to all our volunteers who 'make such a difference', each offering their own particular skills and talents but above all their friendship and support to all within the Trust.

A huge thank you to each and every one of our volunteers.

*giftaid it*

### **Making your donations go 28% further to help The Wilberforce Trust**

Reg. Charity Number: 1087065

Reg. Company Number: 4228432

As a supporter of The Wilberforce Trust, you will know how hard we work to ensure that every penny we raise goes as far as it can to further our service provision. Through Gift Aid and Transitional Relief, you can help us make your donations go 28% further and it won't cost you a penny!

#### **How does it work?**

So long as you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid enables you to boost the value of your donations by 28p for every £1 you give (25p in Gift Aid and a further 3p in Transitional Relief) to your favourite charity. So, for example, if you decide to give £10 to The Wilberforce Trust, we will be able to reclaim an extra £2.80 from HM Revenue & Customs. What is more, if you are a higher rate taxpayer, you are entitled to claim tax relief on your donations, enabling you to reclaim as much as 25p from every £1 donated to charity.

#### **What do you need to do?**

To donate through Gift Aid, all you need to do is complete a simple declaration confirming that you are a taxpayer and that you are happy for us to claim tax relief on your donation. Just one declaration can apply to all donations that you have made to us over the past 6 years and to any forthcoming gifts you make, until you notify them otherwise. It is that simple. **Contact Barbara Kendall on 01904 760037 or email:**

**b.kendall@wilberforcetrust.org.uk or call to find out more about Gift Aid today.**

### **The Wilberforce Trust**

Wilberforce House, 49 North Moor Road,  
Huntington, York YO32 9QN

**Telephone: 01904 760037**

**Fax: 01904 768203**

**Website: [www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk](http://www.wilberforcetrust.org.uk)**

**Email: [enquiry@wilberforcetrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@wilberforcetrust.org.uk)**

### **Thanks to all those who have generously given their support in recent months:**

The York Common Good Trust

Mr and Mrs B. Haigh

Mr and Mrs G. Gare

Askham Bryan Carol Singers

Poppleton Carol Singers

St Everilda's Coffee Drinkers

K. Robins

Tangerine Confectionary