



The Garden Party

Hello Everyone,

Since our last newsletter in August, our charity has been a hive of activity. From music festivals at Phoenix to Holidays in Burnham on Sea - we've been here there and everywhere.

As always for more information about anything connected with the charity please do contact us at Phoenix 01242 511237 or visit our website: www.stvsandstgcs.co.uk

Our annual Garden Party was a complete delight this summer! The scent of home baking wafted through the marquee and across the lawn as people from around the charity enjoyed a long awaited catch up. It was the perfect opportunity to explore the garden project and sample some of their freshly harvested produce. The garden was decorated with unique bunting, showing the faces of staff being recognised for long service awards. Celebrating staff was the highlight of the evening, honouring people for loyalty of 5,10,15,20 and even 25 years! Whilst we have many amazing staff the following deserve particular mention: Chris and Rebecca have both served 25 years



supporting people through activities and crafts in our activity centres, Ross has served 20 years supporting people through our activity centres, and our incredible CEO April has served 20 years having initially come on board to support people with art activities.

Supported Living

With Covid Restrictions having been eased, people have been able to carry on with activities of normal life and this feels like something to celebrate in current times. Holidays have gone ahead, Nicola travelling to the Lake District with family, and Andrew enjoying a caravan holiday in the South West. We have welcomed Ben, moving in to Ermin House, and Lucy has graduated from Star and is exploring new opportunities including sailing.

It's also time for goodbyes as Katy, Steph, Sue and Tom are planning to move on from Caernarvon Road. After years of working together to develop skills in independent living they each need very little support so it is time for the next step forward. This is undoubtedly a big move, but each person is transitioning to more independent accommodation, and that is something to be proud of. As a result we have made the tough decision to sell this house and focus on developing other opportunities of working alongside people in need of support, such as our social enterprise at The Portland.



As promised Phoenix held their first in-house festival on 26th August. Wristbands at the ready, and hair braids in, festival goers scooted round the hay bales to perform on the main stage. And there was no shortage of performers, with tributes to Kylie, Tom Jones and ABBA to name but a few. Without the mud or sleepless nights of a regular festival, it was hailed as a brilliant day! Next year's event is now in the planning, and it promises to be bigger and better.



The Garden Project

The fruit and vegetable growing beds at The Garden Project are now well established and flourishing thanks to the efforts of Maddy and the crew that he mentors. They regularly supply the kitchens of people across the charity with freshly grown produce to supplement home cooked meals. Not content with this the crew are taking on a new challenge in preparing to rehome some rescue hens. Ben, Carol, Kieran and Jade have been learning carpentry skills through the process of building a chicken coop. This will house the chickens in a corner of the gardens at Well Close House, where they can be tended to alongside the crops. Perhaps there will soon be fresh eggs on offer with the fruit and vegetables.



Our Social Enterprise

It is with delight that I can announce our Foundation course in Hospitality has been endorsed by the Institute of Hospitality ready for our learners to officially begin their journey to receiving the opportunities they so greatly deserve. The course will teach employability and hospitality skills in attempt to graduate our learner's in to paid work.

In equal success the six months of being able to open in 2021 have welcomed some wonderful guests, many of whom we have already returned or are booked in to return. We now look ahead to the festive period and in to next year, keep up with our progress in to 2022 on all of our social media platforms @theportlandchelt and if you or somebody you know requires accommodation in Cheltenham call 01242 906600 for our best rates.



fundraising news

Owen's London Marathon Success

On Sunday 3rd October, Owen took on this year's London Marathon. He ran the 26.2 miles in 4 hours and 40 minutes: an absolutely incredible achievement given the 10 weeks he had to train!

Despite finding the final mile painful, he pushed through and has decided to enter the ballot for 2022, hoping to shave about an hour off his finishing time.

On top of training for the run, Owen's also been busy fundraising, and hosted a comedy night at our local pub, The Bayshill. The night went well, raising over £450 in raffle tickets and burger sales. We're still waiting for a final ticket sale total, but will publish that at a later date. We'd like to thank all of Owen's supporters who donated BBQ food and raffle prizes!

Everyone at St V's and St G's would like to say a huge thank you to Owen, for taking on the challenge, with such short notice, to ensure we were still represented in London.



Training News - an update from SI

Training has started to return to normality following Covid with certain safety pre-cautions still in place for both internal and external courses. Simon and April have attended the 'Oliver McGowen Tier 1 and 2 Pilot Training', in preparation for its mandatory role out next year. The charity is working together with 'Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust' and 'The University of Gloucestershire' to provide placements for Nursing Students. We have one student confirmed to start with us at the end of this year for a 3 month period.

Recruitment is an ongoing challenge within the Health and Social care sector and we are no exception, finding difficulties to recruit staff for roles in Homecare. The staff at the charity have been working tirelessly through Covid and now through a recruitment challenge taking on extra work and overtime. From my perspective all staff at the charity, especially our support workers have been and continue to be heroes ensuring our service users continue to receive the highest possible care and support. Legends!

Job opportunities

We need people who are looking to enhance the lives of our service users by making each day fun and enjoyable.

We're passionate about ensuring our Service Users live their life to the fullest: no two days are ever the same, Monday you might be out sailing, Sunday you could be out for some pub grub - we want to make sure that each day our service users have a great day. If you'd like flexible hours, full training and support, scope for progression, cars for Domiciliary Care and Out reach and a team that cares about you too - please email enquiries@stvsandstgs.co.uk for more information / to apply.

A message from April

A huge **THANK YOU** to staff from April and the senior team. You have been amazing in stepping up to cope with the challenges of the pandemic, and recruitment. The issues faced by Social Care are finally being talked about in the national news, and our staff team experience these first hand. So to everyone who goes the extra mile, with particular mention of Meryem and Bani, we are proud of you and incredibly grateful for all you do. **Thank you!**



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