



Summer 2009

Updating you with the latest news from SHARE Community

SHARE's Celebrating Diversity Garden Party a Sunny Success!

Special points of interest:

- Garden Party
- Annie's Column
- Student Stories
- Marathon Update
- Meet our new fundraiser

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We held our annual garden party on Thursday 11th June with over 180 guests and plenty of VIPs. This year, we raised nearly £2000 from the sale of raffle tickets, plants and art work.

The theme of the day was Celebrating Diversity. Annie McDowall welcomed visitors and thanked the Patel Brothers



of Tooting, and the Tooting Trade Association for sponsoring the event for the third year. She also paid tribute to the members of the Khalsa Centre, Tooting, who had prepared the delicious buffet lunch, which was sponsored by the Patel Brothers and Gurkhas restaurant of Balham. "This event is a wonderful example of community



spirit and celebration of diversity," Annie said. She added, "Diversity is about a culture where people feel respected and valued and can contribute to their fullest potential. Welcome to SHARE, a truly diverse organisation." On behalf of the event's sponsors, Mr Indrajit Patel, Chair of the Tooting Business Network and the Tooting Partnership, talked personally about what diversity meant to him, and Mr Pravin Pattni praised SHARE for the difference it makes to disabled people's lives. Special guest Martin Linton, MP for Battersea, talked about the way things are changing for disabled children and adults.

The highlight of the day was the prize draw. The Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Chris Wellbelove and the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Jane Cooper took turns to pick 20 lucky winners. Everyone who attended, including the Mayors, contributed to the community mosaic which



will be put on display in the SHARE Garden. Rebecca Emmott, Chair of SHARE Community, said, "The garden looked amazing, we had some very distinguished guests and even the rain held off!".

Annie's Column

The theme for this year's garden party was diversity. It's a word that's used a lot, but what does it really mean? Has it become just another bit of jargon that we insert at regular intervals in our funding applications? I was lucky enough to attend a seminar recently that was all about diversity. Ian Dodds, of Ian Dodds Consulting, offered his definition of diversity:



- ★ **It begins and ends with the individual.**
- ★ **It is about a culture where people feel respected and valued, and can contribute to their fullest potential to help their organisation achieve its objectives.**
- ★ **It involves sustained and long-term strategic effort that, when led and managed effectively, will improve performance and problem solving.**
- ★ **It's happening when individuals' different perspectives and experiences are embraced in finding the best ways to serve the public and customers.**

Any organisation embracing and living by these principles is bound to be a winner, and SHARE, I suggest, is well on the way to achieving this vision. Our garden party showed diversity and community spirit in action. Businesses and organisations with very different aims and backgrounds worked together to create a day that delighted the soul. For the third year, the Patel brothers, the Tooting Business Network, and the Khalsa centre sponsored the event providing wonderful food, some of the raffle prizes, and most of the funding for the event.

The (Labour) Mayor of Lambeth and the (Conservative) Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth worked harmoniously together to draw the raffle and mingle with the other guests.



So many people worked to make the event a success, from Amy, who organised the event, to Jenny and the garden team who made the garden so spectacular, to all the staff and volunteers who played their part in making the day so memorable. We each bring our unique selves to every situation and when we're feeling good about who and how we are, we bring only good.

Finally, if you're not already a Friend of SHARE, I urge you to sign up today. This is a simple and direct way of showing your support for your favourite local charity. In these hard times, we need all the financial support we can get. When you support a small local charity, you know that every penny will be put to the best use possible. You can commit to as little as £2 per month. And we're worth it!

Trip to the museum

The Learning and Guidance group had a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum in May as part of their Tudor Times studies. The main object of interest was the Great Bed of Ware, which was certainly not a disappointment, and other Tudor objects that give an insight into how people lived in the past.



The group had time to visit other rooms in the museum after their lunch and the one displaying Fashion through the Ages was very popular. One student kept thanking me for taking her to the museum, and it was clear that a day "off site", but still learning, was much appreciated.

Esther and I would like to thank our three Southbank students who by giving their time to the students on this trip enabled them to get so much more out of it.

Frances Barrett (Life Skills Tutor)

SHARE branches out to Croydon

We're pleased to announce that we are to begin delivering our My Future project from the Beulah Family Church Community Centre in Croydon.

This is an extension of our existing My Future project which is currently running from our Brixton Centre. We hope to be able to reach more people, particularly those from Croydon by branching out our services.



The project is employment focussed with the Information, Advice and Guidance Officer, Tania Dee, at its heart. Tania works with all students on the course to develop an action plan to help them move on to their next step in life—for some this may be employment, others may prefer volunteering or some go on to further training or work placement. Alongside Tania's employment advice sessions, the students can also update their IT Skills and work towards the CLAiT qualification with Maxine, our IT teacher. Maxine says, "The CLAiT qualification is recognised by employers as a useful, functional IT qualification. On the course we study all the main office applications, including Word, Excel, databases and Powerpoint."

Visit www.sharecommunity.org.uk/uploads/MyFutureCroydon-EFlier.pdf to see the project flier which has full details of eligibility criteria, location and how to join.

please call our referral hotline 0207 326 5460 and speak to Lulu.

The My Future project is funded by the European Social Fund and the London Councils.



Marathon Update

Thanks to everyone who sponsored our runners in this year's Flora London Marathon. In the last newsletter, we reported that Derek Harrison, son of Lily Harrison MBE, had agreed to run for SHARE and just 2 weeks before the day, we found out that Sally Baker was also raising money for us.



Both Derek and Sally were grateful for the good running weather on Sunday 26th April as they completed the course in 3 hours 31 minutes and 4 hours 2 minutes respectively. We are very grateful for the time and effort that they both put in to help support our work.

Together with your support, I am really pleased to say that we raised over **£2,120** towards our continued work supporting disabled adults through training and advice.



Win a car!



SHARE Community have teamed up with the Foundation for Social Improvement to take part in their Small Charity Car Draw. The tickets are £2 and you could win a Fiat 500!



The Fiat 500 was Car of the Year in 2008 and is low-emission, safe and stylish. Tickets are only available online, so to buy yours go to www.everyclick.com/sharecommunity and click on "Buy your tickets now".

The draw closes on 21st August and the winner will be drawn on 1st October.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Hobbit House

The garden students and their supervisor, Dougie, have finally completed their latest project - they have converted a mound of rubble and garden waste into a fully inhabited hobbit house.

The students began the project by using their skills to turf the mound and have now created a pathway and a front garden for the hobbits.



If you would like to view the hobbit house and perhaps buy some SHARE grown plants at the same time, please pop down to the garden between 11am and 3pm, Monday to Friday.

The garden is located in the Gillian Webb Memorial Garden, Springfield Hospital, 61 Glenburnie Road, Tooting, SW17 7DJ

Meanwhile, beyond SHARE...

This issue, we asked Stuart, a student from the Horticulture project to tell us about what he enjoys doing outside of SHARE...

My Sporting Life by Stuart Skone

I have enjoyed doing sports all my life. At school I was good at most sports and even played lacrosse for my school. I am still very sporty.

This year I have been made Captain of my football team Wandsworth United. We play in a league and we are doing so at the moment. I usually play on Tuesdays and we sometimes travel all over London to play. I play in midfield.



My summer sport is green bowls. This is my favourite sport and I am a good player. Last year I was president of the club and this year I am Vice Captain. I am also Greenkeeper for my club. I play all through the summer at weekends and sometimes we have matches in the evening. I think there is no better way to spend a summer evening than play bowls, win the match and have a pint to celebrate.

So far I have won 8 trophies playing bowls and matches can get quite exciting when it gets down to last bowl to decide the winner.

I really enjoy competitive bowls and am looking into taking this further – maybe even bowling for Britain.

Stuart Skone, Horticulture Student

GARDENING TIPS FOR Summer

- ☼ **Look after your summer colour** – all those colourful bedding plants in baskets, beds and containers will last a lot longer if you take time to remove the deadheads regularly. Remember to feed and water you baskets and window boxes too. If you do have gaps you can always check out our Plant Sales Team (contact details on the back page) – we still have some good quality plants on special offer.
- ☼ **Sow now for next spring** – biennials like Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots, Foxglove and Sweet William all bring colour and often fragrance to the garden in late spring and early summer. You can place an order now for delivery at planting time in October.
- ☼ **Take cuttings** of herbaceous perennials such as Dianthus, Penstemon and Phlox. They usually root quickly and easily.
- ☼ **Keep your roses looking good** – remove any suckers from the base and regular dead heading will keep them flowering all summer.
- ☼ **Finally but probably most important** all over the garden – weed, weed again and weed some more. The recent combination of sunshine and showers has produced lots of lush weeds in the project garden and we are trying to keep them under control.



Jenny Shand, Horticulture Tutor

Visit our website for the latest information at www.sharecommunity.org.uk

Supporters Update

Introducing our new Fundraising and Communications Manager – Barbara Marsh

I started with SHARE Community at the beginning of May so with just under two months under my belt I'm delighted to tell you about our recent fundraising successes. But first of all I just want to say how much I've enjoyed my first weeks here at SHARE. The students and staff have made me feel so welcome – in fact so much so that I feel like I've been here for ages!



As we move forward with fundraising for the wonderful work that SHARE does I'm hoping to recruit more donors to our FRIENDS scheme. For as little as £2 per month you can become part of the SHARE family and come along to our events, receive our regular updates and really help to contribute to our organisation. You can download a form online by visiting www.sharecommunity.org.uk/uploads/FRIENDSformJune2009.doc

I'm sure that many organisations are asking for more and more of your time and money, particularly in these difficult financial times. Here at SHARE we are reliant on your donations to sustain our work and help us to grow for the future. So if you're not already a Friend then please do consider joining us. And a big thank you to our generous donors who already give so much!



In February we were very fortunate to be one of Waitrose Balham's charities of the month and we received a £268 donation as a result. You can see me collecting our cheque along with some of our students and some of the Waitrose staff. It is fantastic to be the recipient of local business support such as this.

We have also benefitted from support from the Patel Brothers of Tooting who have contributed to our Garden Party every year for the past three years.

This year we had not one, but two runners in the Flora London Marathon. Between them Derek and Sally raised over £2,000! A big thank you goes out to them. And don't forget if you have a place on next year's marathon you can nominate SHARE as your charity beneficiary.

I'm also delighted to announce that we have been able to obtain five places in the new **Brighton Marathon** which will take place in the lovely seaside city on **April 18th, 2010**. This brand new event has been set up to offer an alternative for the many thousands who are unable to get a place in the London marathon. If you are interested in running in this event for SHARE then please do get in touch. We will provide you with a fundraising pack to support your fundraising efforts and will be there on the day to cheer you on!



We are really keen to support anybody who wants to hold an event for us. For example Rod Baker (one of our long-term supporters) is holding a golf day in July and another new supporter is holding a hockey game to raise money for us! There are lots of things you can do to support our work so if you're keen to get involved please do ring me on 020 7801 9813 or email

barbaram@sharecommunity.org.uk

To donate to SHARE, visit our website: www.sharecommunity.org.uk

Student Stories...

Francine

It has been extremely exciting working with Francine. She joined SHARE earlier this year on the Skills for Jobs project.



Francine has been very conscientious, positive and capable and completed her Certificate for IT Users (New CLAiT) Level 1 in less than 3 months! Alongside this she has completed a work placement at another charity and attended many productive job search sessions. Francine was keen to complete the Diploma for IT Users and then move on to the Level 2 qualification however she has now secured a temporary job and is continuing to confidently apply to permanent jobs.

Zoë Bell (Skills for Jobs Project Worker)

Imran

On first attending SHARE Community, Imran felt he did not really want to be there and did not really feel we could help. However, his attitude soon changed and Imran became our most active student. Imran attended various interviews but then decided he wanted to change direction and secured a placement on a Youth Training Scheme.



Danielle



Danielle wanted to improve her employability so that she could get a job and ensure she could provide for her children. After many discussions with us, Danielle decided that a placement and further training would enable her to do this. She has now secured a placement with Business Administration training.

Sarah

When Sarah was made redundant, she wanted to find work quickly in order to maintain her health. Sarah was a great student—she was extremely active and listened to every option available. After all her hard work, Sarah has now secured two part-time positions and is still attending SHARE for extra support with her IT.



Tania Dee (Information, Advice & Employment Guidance Officer)

Making Tooting more beautiful



Here are some of the horticulture students planting the containers ordered by the Tooting Business Network. They came to the Garden Party and saw our plant sale and wanted to buy some containers in order to make Tooting more beautiful. We were pleased to assist them in this endeavour.



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Staffing News

This quarter, we welcomed new staff members Tara Spencer (Information, Advice & Guidance Officer), Lulu Kyriacou (IAG Support Worker), Pera Svilar (Basic Skills Tutor), Clare Miles (PA/HR Administrator) and Barbara Marsh (Fundraising & Communications Manager) to the team.

We sadly said goodbye to Sue Hart our Business Administration Trainer/Assessor, Robert Bradbury (IT Supervisor), Gavin Fearnley (Head of Fundraising) and Jane Osei Pokuaa (Project Manager).

We also welcomed three new trustees to our board. Lizzie Jones, Denis Penna, and Paul Saville who are all giving their time and expertise to help govern SHARE.



Above: Jackie (SHARE Student), Lizzie Jones (new Trustee), Rebecca Emmott (Chair of SHARE) and Denis Penna (new Trustee) enjoying the garden party.

What's next ... the next events of interest are:

Date & Time:	Event:	Venue:
October 10th -17th 2009	World Mental Health Week	Different locations around Wandsworth
Thursday 10th November	SHARE Community Awards Ceremony 2009	Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall

Contact us



For more information about **SHARE Community** or the training projects provided, contact Pam Dale on 020 7801 9812 or email info@sharecommunity.org.uk.

Information about the **Ability 1st**, **My Future**, **Lambeth Endowed** and **Skills for Jobs** projects is available on 020 7326 5460 or email newstart@sharecommunity.org.uk.

If you are interested in **buying plants** from the SHARE Garden, please contact Jenny Shand or Marie Morris at the Garden on 020 8682 6460.

Visit our website for the latest information at www.sharecommunity.org.uk