

In this issue:

Garden Party 2010 1

Annie's Column 2

Events 3

Events 4

Student Profile 5

Supporters Update 6

What's Happening 7

Staffing News 8

What's Next? 8

Contact Details 8



SHARECommunity

Self Help Association for Rehabilitation and Employment for People with Disabilities

Focus on ability

Clowning Around at the Garden Party...

We held our annual garden party on Thursday 10th June with over 200 guests, including the new Deputy Mayors of Wandsworth and Lambeth as well as Jane Ellison, the MP for Battersea. This year, our theme was Circus, so guests were entertained by a 10ft clown, while everyone had the chance to learn some hula hooping and plate spinning skills!

The day kicked off with some words from our Chair, Bec Emmott; Cllr Jenny Nickels, the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth; Cllr Christiana Valcarcel, the Deputy Mayor of Lambeth; Jane Ellison, the newly appointed MP for Battersea; and Mr Indrajit Patel and Mr Pravin Pattni of the Tooting business Network.

Cont. on Pg 3



In this picture: SHARE student Charlotte Bryant-Bailey, Jane Ellison MP for Battersea, SHARE Student Jago Wilson and SHARE Chair Bec Emmott

Annie's Column

Dear supporters,

First of all, the good news: the sun is shining; it didn't rain during the SHARE garden party; and our training centre in Battersea has had a facelift, courtesy of volunteers from the Discovery Channel. But the bad news is that the budget announcement signals much tougher times for us all, and a potentially challenging few years ahead for SHARE. Rises in VAT affect us all, but for small organisations working to a tight budget, that extra 3% will make a worrying difference. For example, renewing the flooring, which we desperately need to do because it's beginning to be hazardous, is due to cost us around £5,000. Add the current 17.5% VAT and that means we have to fundraise an additional £875. That sum increases to £1,000 from January if VAT rises to 20%. Multiply that increase across all of our expenditure and you can see that we'll have difficult decisions to make. Do we cut back on resources for students? Do we scrap plans to replace the old and draughty windows that are costing us so dearly in lost heat? Do we cut our staff, most of whom already have oversized classes? And to add to the gloom, local authorities are facing massive resource cuts, which means that they will have less to spend on services like SHARE.



Changes in the welfare to work programme do not, at present, look positive for SHARE, and we don't know what's happening with funding for adult learning – the Skills Funding Agency. So these two sources of work and income are far from secure for us.

We're not despairing, but neither are we complacent. We need all the friends we can get, so if you're not already signed up as a regular donor, please do so today. And if you're part of a business that could become a regular customer for our plants and gardening services, please talk to us as we're keen to develop our enterprise activities. In the meantime, we continue to look at ways of developing new areas of work and getting better at what we already do. We will be having a planning day on October 5th. Please let me know if you'd like to take part – we welcome supporters as well as staff, students, volunteers and trustees.

You'll see elsewhere in this newsletter that our wonderful marathon runners did us proud again. If you feel inspired to do something to raise money for us, please talk to Barbara or myself. It's been a while since anyone did a horse ride through Mongolia for us...

I hope you have an enjoyable summer. Please do keep in touch and help us to continue to transform disabled people's lives.

Warm wishes,
Annie

Continued from front page...

Our guests praised us for our work training disabled people and for being a valuable resource to the community. Special mention was made of our horticulture team, who provided a beautiful venue for the party, and also provide plant arrangements for the Tooting Business Network, helping them to beautify the Upper Tooting Road.

A delicious Indian lunch was provided by the Khalsa Centre, courtesy of the Tooting Business Network, and was enjoyed by everyone. SHARE is, as ever, incredibly grateful for the support received from everyone at the Khalsa Centre and Tooting Business Network. This is the 4th year running they have sponsored the Garden Party by providing all the food, so we are overwhelmed by their generosity.



The day was then brought to a close with the Prize Draw, which was drawn by Cllr Jenny Nickels. Prizes were donated by friends of SHARE, including Whole Foods Market and Recipease in Clapham Junction; the Gurkhas Diner in Balham; the National Trust property, Polesden Lacey; award winning artist David Blandy; and our volunteer, Kate Blatherwick.

Wandsworth Marketplace Event

On 8th June Wandsworth Council put on a Marketplace event, showcasing organisations in the borough who can offer services to adults with personal budgets. SHARE took part in the event, with a marketplace stall advertising our services. Three SHARE students - Jago Wilson, Mark Barnes and Linda Harrison, also took part by volunteering to help on the day, with tasks such as stewarding and welcoming attendees.

The event provided a great opportunity for service providers in the borough to network and learn more about personalisation, as well as meet some service users.

Depression Awareness Week

The 19th-25th April was Depression Awareness Week. SHARE got involved by holding an open day at the Horticulture Project in Tooting, inviting contacts who work with Mental Health to come and see the work we do. Students from the garden provided tours and answered questions about how they've found gardening beneficial to them, and there was information available about depression, and the services SHARE offers.

Your Future Your Work

In April Wandsworth's Lifelong Learning Team put on a careers and training information fair at Battersea Power Station for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The event was designed to show Wandsworth's disabled residents about the opportunities available for training, volunteering and employment. Service providers and employers from across the borough were there, as well as representatives from the Council's Transformation Team, who were providing information on the Personalisation agenda. SHARE had a stand at the event, and also arranged for a group of students to attend. It was a great opportunity to meet new potential students, and for our existing students to learn more about the opportunities open to them after SHARE.

Education Towards Employment

Deaf First ran an employment and training fair at Oak Lodge School in May, to promote the opportunities available to deaf people in the area. SHARE Community had a stand at the event, and Annie McDowall spoke, explaining what SHARE can offer. We hope that we can start to welcome more deaf students to SHARE, and will be looking at providing communication support workers and installing a hearing loop system if any deaf students wish to join us.

Tooting Trashcatchers Carnival - July 2010

On 4th of July, Tooting will be host to the Trashcatchers Carnival, and SHARE is taking



part! Transition Town Tooting are putting the carnival on with Project Phakama and Emergency Exit Arts. Local schools, residents and organisations are taking part, making all the floats and costumes and decoration from recycled rubbish.

SHARE's horticulture project was approached by the organisers, as they were interested in using the garden produce in the carnival. As a result, SHARE is helping in the 'Earth' section, working on 'Gardeners of the World' and the 'Whirlygig of Plenty'.

Our students are currently busy filling wheelbarrows and bicycle baskets with flowers and plants, as well as working with the Wandsworth Cycling Association to create a float.

The carnival promises to be a great day out, so if any of you can make it, we hope to see you there!

NAME: LAURA HILLIER
AGE: 24
JOINED: SUMMER 2009
COURSE: ICT & BASIC SKILLS



How did you first find out about SHARE Community?

My Key Worker, from Wandsworth Social Services, first told me about SHARE and suggested I take a look around. I decided I wanted to give it a try, as it seemed better for me than a college. It is more relaxed and friendly.

What do you think of SHARE?

I enjoy it at SHARE. I've made lots of good friends and have a great time. The tutors are supportive as well.

Have you gained any qualifications so far?

In ICT I am working towards the LOCN qualification. So far I have a certificate in General IT - using information, word processing & using the internet.

What would you like to do next?

I would like to get a job in retail; preferably fashion retail. I already work 2 days a week in a British Heart Foundation shop, but I'd like a paid retail job.

Do you have any support in your search for a job?

I have an advisor helping me to look for work. At first I used the Job Centre but now I have an advisor from the Camden Society. I get help with my CV and job searching as well as advice for interviews and that sort of thing.

What do you do in your spare time?

I mostly hang out with my friends. We like to go to the cinema, go bowling and eat out. I also enjoy reading.

Supporters Update

Brighton Marathon 2010

On a beautifully sunny day in Brighton on Sunday 18th April five brave supporters ran the very first Brighton Marathon and raised funds to support SHARE Community. The lovely weather ensured that the spectators at least had a great day out (it wasn't so comfortable for many of the runners!). Overall the runners raised just over £2,180, which along with the Gift Aid we can claim brings the full total to £2,700!



While we weren't quite quick enough to get any shots of our runners on the course you can see some of us cheering loudly in the photo above.

London Marathon 2010

We were also very fortunate this year to have our former auditor, Tim Goodall running in the London marathon and raising over £2,800.

Many, many thanks to all our runners and also to everybody who sponsored them!

Small Charities Car Draw

Be in with a chance to win a Mini First by buying a raffle ticket for the small charities car draw. Tickets are £2 each and £1.90 from every ticket purchase goes straight to SHARE. If you want to buy a ticket (and support a great cause at the same time!) then follow the link:

<http://www.thefsi.org/fsi/charityprofile/share-community> and click on 'Buy tickets here'.

There are also paper tickets available so if you want to buy some (and sell some on to your friends!) then please do get in touch – details below.



The draw closes on 6th September and the winner will be drawn on 14th October at the fsi's Forum for Small Charities.

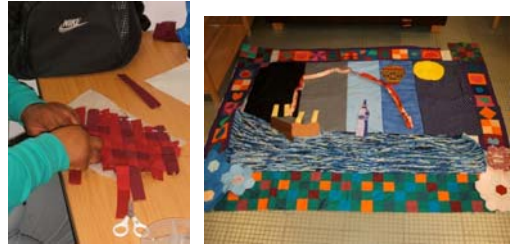
There are lots of things you can do to support our work so if you're keen to get involved please do contact Barbara on 020 7801 9813 or email

barbaram@sharecommunity.org.uk

What's Happening

Writing our Roots & Community Quilt courses a Success

The two short courses SHARE ran in creative writing and quilt making came to a successful end in April. The quilting course, run in conjunction with Deaf First and Generate, saw participants working together to create a quilt depicting the sights of London on a skyscape. The pictures opposite show the work progressing, with the Gherkin being made, and the quilt being laid out:



The creative writing course was run in conjunction with Deaf First, Generate and Randall Close. Participants have created a variety of works including memories, a letter to the Prime Minister and group stories. Below is an excerpt from the work produced, which SHARE is hoping to turn into a book:

“...We had a small black and white television set in our home and the TV shows I loved when I was a little girl were *Star Trek* and *Lost In Space*. Those programmes fired my imagination and before they were broadcast I would lay on my favourite sofa and get very excited. One of my favourite films when I was a girl was *The Poseidon Adventure*, a film about the survival of characters on a big ship after it had been hit by a huge tidal wave. I think I liked the film because of the survival theme. In many ways I see my own life as being a tale of survival.”

Painting Day at SHARE's Battersea Centre



On Friday 18th June SHARE welcomed 12 Discovery Communications employees, who came to help give the ground floor of SHARE's Battersea Centre a make-over. Our staff worked with the London office of Discovery Communications (owners of The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and more) to paint the reception, meeting room and main communal area.

The Discovery Communications employees were volunteering as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the organisation. Every Discovery office worldwide took part in the 'Discover Your Impact' Day - an opportunity for employees to volunteer within their communities.

At SHARE, we're hoping to make many improvements to the Battersea Centre, which is the main training centre and head office, so we are busy fundraising to make that happen. Support like that received from Discovery Communications is invaluable to us and we're very grateful for all the hard work put in on the day.

Staffing News

SHARE's head office has welcomed Tania Dee, Lulu Kyriacou, Maxine Edwards and Alan Butler, who have all moved over from the Brixton Office and taken up residence in Battersea.

We have also welcomed new temporary Basic Skills tutor, Sonia White and new fundraising volunteer Christian Agbodza to the team.

We regularly advertise volunteer positions so if you are interested in putting your skills to good use then you can look at the current opportunities on our website.

What's next? The next events of interest are:

Date:	Event:	Venue:
4th July	Tooting Trashcatchers Carnival	Tooting High Street
7th July	Transitions Event	Paddock School
10th October	World Mental Health Day	n/a
18th November	SHARE Awards Ceremony	Wandsworth Civic Suite

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 and Skills For Jobs projects is available on **020 7801 9825** 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**.

SHARE Community
64 Altenburg Gardens,
London, SW11 1JL

Phone: 020 7924 2949
Fax: 020 7350 1625
E: info@sharecommunity.org.uk



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