



# Newsletter

## Issue 6 - Summer 2010

### Farewell Sharon...



St Anne's Chief Executive, Sharon Allen, has recently made a career change to become the Chief Executive for Skills for Care<sup>1</sup>.

Sharon became St Anne's Chief Executive in 2002 and under her leadership the organisation has grown to become a major provider of social care and support services across the North of England.

Sharon ensured our mission statement, to "offer quality support, care and housing services that promote dignity, independence, opportunity and inclusion", was brought to life. She worked hard and effectively to ensure our services are totally committed to constant improvement and that our clients are at the centre of everything we do.

Today, for example, St Anne's has four clients on the Board of Management who participate in the running of the organisation.

It is St Anne's 40th anniversary in 2011 and in the 40 years since St Anne's was established the organisation has seen many changes and service developments. For the past 8 years Sharon steered the organisation through quite a few of these changes and we have grown and prospered with an enhanced reputation both regionally and nationally. It is no coincidence that since Sharon joined in 2002 St Anne's turnover has grown by nearly 50% and we have development many new and high quality services. It is also no coincidence that in a recent Investor in People appraisal, conducted by an external consultant, St Anne's received the highest level of recognition, a Gold award. Only twelve other organisations in Yorkshire have achieved this level of recognition.

Sharon and the rest of us are justifiably proud of these achievements.

St Anne's will all miss her, and we wish Sharon every success in her continuing career with Skills for Care. Now St Anne's is looking forward to the appointment of Sharon's successor to take the organisation forward to the next level of its development.

John Baczkowski  
Director, Planning and Administration

<sup>1</sup>Skills for Care is the employer led authority on the training standards and development needs of nearly one million social care staff in England providing over £25 million in funding to support improved training and qualifications for managers and staff. Skills for Care work with social care employers and training providers both regionally and nationally to establish the necessary standards and qualifications that equip social care workers with the skills needed to deliver an improved standard of care.

# Staff Forum 2010

Over 220 of St Anne's staff gathered together on 28<sup>th</sup> April at Elland Road, Leeds, to celebrate the achievements of the past year and to look forward to the future.

Sheila Saunders, Chair of St Anne's Board, launched the day with an opening address. Sheila shared the commitment of all Board members to the aims of St Anne's and all that we stand for and explained the functions of the Board. Praising staff for the continuing high quality of care and support provided to clients, Sheila finished with an overview of the kinds of challenges facing St Anne's over the coming years.

Sharon was next to speak and entitled her presentation "Survived and thriving". Sharon detailed all the accomplishments of the past year and emphasised Sheila's praise of the high effort put in by staff to go the extra mile in providing fantastic services to clients. Sharon also outlined the circumstances St Anne's finds itself working in an ever more competitive environment and having to find ways to provide more and better services but for less money. Sharon once again pointed to the challenges facing St Anne's, emphasising that our priorities are to protect services and jobs and that working together we can face the future with confidence, building on our already outstanding achievements.

The "health of the organisation" was an interactive session involving everyone. Groups of staff were asked to come up with five ideas or wishes which would contribute to the development and sustainability of the organisation. All these ideas were written onto large paper "leaves" and then displayed on a huge tree at the front of the room. These have been typed up and the summary is available for people to look at on the Intranet in the Staff Forum folder under Organisation Info. SMT will look in detail at these ideas and provide feedback on our response to them.

Graham Palmer and Jo Denning gave a very informative presentation about how assistive technologies could be used to improve our services. Both Graham and Jo explained how things like fall sensors, alert buttons and call systems for people moving into more independent settings, are being used by other organisations to improve the support services they provide.

## Info Stands



## Brainstorming workshops



# In recognition...

Everyone was challenged to think about ways in which these kinds of technologies could be used in our own services and a list of ideas was put together. This list is also available for people to look at on the Intranet. Area Managers will be talking with teams about which ideas can be taken forward in services.

Over lunch people had the opportunity to network and view the 'market stalls'. There were a large number of colourfully decked out market stalls displaying information about our own services along with guest stalls from West Yorkshire Fire Service, Sovereign Healthcare, First Assist, Lifeworks, Unison and RCN.

After lunch the Forum was very pleased to welcome Barbara Pinton who gave a moving and informative key note speech about what makes for good dementia care in any setting. There was a great deal in what Barbara said which applies to the services we provide and not just to clients who may have dementia. Barbara's down to earth observations and advice were founded on 16 years of providing care and support to her husband and there was much to reflect upon either from a work point of view or by building up our understanding of what people suffering from this kind of illness and their supporters are going through. Barbara received a well deserved and rousing round of applause following her presentation. In the evaluation forms, many people described Barbara's contribution as inspirational.

There then followed a celebration of achievements which was led by Judith Micklethwaite and Chris Irwin. Nominations had been received and reviewed by a panel about the extraordinary contributions made by individuals or teams which deserved to be praised and shared publicly. Sharon also summarised all the top team winners who have been given the award since the celebrations we had at the Achievements event in Huddersfield last year. To top off this part of the Forum there was a special "top" top team award, the Margaret Frankland memorial award in memory of our colleague who contributed so much to St Anne's. This award went to Alcohol Services, Leeds and Sharon was delighted to present the award to Jonathan Philpott, manager of this service. Pictured here to the right



## Tree of ideas



# St. Anne's contribution to the Chelsea Flower Show



In March 2010, St. Anne's was approached by the Homeless Network to see if a contribution could be made from the garden to use at the Chelsea flower show, so during March and April a selection of wild flowers and weeds were gathered, potted and placed in the polly-tunnel ready to be transported to Chelsea.



On the 13th May at the crack of dawn Tony B, Darren and Tony H loaded the plants in the mini-bus at St. Anne's and headed for Chelsea. After arrival we were clad in hi-viz jackets, boots and ID badges and escorted into Chelsea flower show. Unfortunately after unloading we had to leave without getting to look round owing to the volume of traffic waiting to get into the show but we were promised tickets for the event so we headed back to St. Anne's.

The tickets arrived later and plans were made to go to the show on Thursday 26th May for the afternoon session. On Thursday the 26th May Barbara, Gavin and Tony H set out for London stopping for a libation on the motorway about half way. We parked the mini-bus just outside London to avoid congestion and caught 2 tubes to Chelsea, this also gave us a chance to see some more of the sights of London.



The timing of the tube change worked perfect the longest wait was only 7 minutes. We arrived at the show at 3.40pm and after a security check we entered the show it was astounding. The displays and gardens, the smells, the atmosphere is incredible the prices out of this world (a pair of gardening gloves £25) apparently St. Anne's budget will not run to that. It seemed strange to see the plants on prestige public display knowing you have helped to cultivate them.

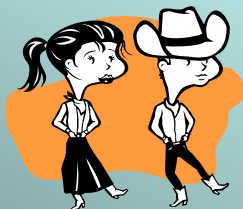
What a day! It was fantastic, as Gavin said. "I am buzzin". How many people do you know that have been to the Chelsea flower show. So back in Sheffield with very fond memories of a perfect day out but sadly still with sore hands in the garden through lack of gloves! (sorry Barbara).

## Whilst on the subject of growing plants ..... here's Bill from Portland Avenue who's growing his own produce.



Hi, my name is Bill and I attend Bishopwearmouth Horticultural college three times a week. I have a keen interest in gardening. This is a photograph of myself enjoying watering my plants. Everything seems to be growing very well, hopefully I will be eating my own fresh produce.

As keen as ever, I might be eating these tomatoes sooner than I think. I am hoping to purchase some raised beds so that I can grow my own vegetables, my strawberry hanging baskets are starting to flower now.



## Ye ha! - Line dancing classes at Brook House

The staff and clients at Brook House decided to stage a line dancing class which was so successful they decided to launch a monthly class and invite other members of staff and clients within St. Anne's to join them for a fun evening.



This will be held at: The Day Centre, 12 Oxfield Court, Albany Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 9UZ on the following dates:

Sunday 26 September 2010

Sunday 24 October 2010

Sunday 21 November 2010

Sunday 19 December 2010

Time: 3.00—5.00 pm

Please email:

[tara.johnson@st-annes.org.uk](mailto:tara.johnson@st-annes.org.uk)  
or call 07984747571



## Race for Life - 13.06.10 Lister Park, Bradford



Myself (Vicky Walker), Mary Cooper from West Park Street and Richard Vine from Heckmondwike were driven to Lister Park by Bernie James. Arriving 1½ hrs before starting time we were met by a sea of pink t/shirts sporting names on their backs, of individuals they were running in memory of, which was rather poignant. The warm up began with dancers on stage encouraging everyone to wave their arms and side step on mass to the music which was great fun.

There was a very jovial feeling in the massive crowd which we believe was around 5,000 strong. Everyone was divided up into runners, joggers and walkers and 3½ minutes after the starters orders we crossed the starting line (which gives you some idea of the numbers participating)! On approaching the 1km mark we were quite alarmed to be met head on by the front runners in the race running towards us (in hindsight they had completed the first loop of the race and had still quite a distance to go).

At various points the stewards offered their verbal support (which I personally found encouraging and really helpful). The race passed through Cartwright Hall and its picturesque gardens, bowling greens and finally round the edge of the lake. Crossing the finish line was very emotional, people clapped and shouted well done as Mary left her wheelchair and walked over the finish line - Well Done Mary!



We all savoured the moment, taking photographs and receiving our medals and goody bags. It was a very well organised event with a great atmosphere and a truly memorable day. Now here's to collecting in from my sponsors.

Pictured from left to right, Bernie James, Vicky Walker and Mary Cooper



# Janet and Dwight tie the knot

On June 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 the Floating Outreach Team was very happy to be supporting Janet and Dwight to marry at the Leeds Town Hall.

Anne Pickard walked Janet down the aisle and Kate Holmes was Dwight's best woman. The bridesmaids were Dorothy Howell and Janet Williams. Twenty three clients from the service also attended along with sixteen staff, friends and Dwight's family.



The reception was held at Meanwood Social Club where everyone enjoyed a lovely buffet and great disco. Dwight also had a surprise birthday cake for his birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The following day Janet and Dwight went off to Blackpool for a weeks honeymoon. Janet and Dwight would like to thank all the staff for all their hard work and support to make this a perfect day.



## Robert's Family Wedding

Robert Dyson got an invite from his niece to go to her wedding on 5 June 2010. This was fantastic for Robert as he had never been invited to anything like this before.



### Robert's account of the day

Two members of staff were going to accompany me to the wedding on the day which I was really excited about. We went shopping and I bought a new suit, shirt and tie and shoes and we ordered a button hole from the florist so I would look 'top notch' on the day.

On a beautiful day on the 5 June we left Lindley Cottage at 12.00noon to get to the church. The wedding ceremony was at 1.00pm which was lovely and then we went on to the reception. This was held in a fabulous marquee in a field. We had drinks first and then after speeches we had an afternoon tea. We stayed on for the evening do where we had a hog roast and a live band which I really enjoyed. It was great seeing family members that I hadn't seen for a while who were all very impressed with the way I have changed since they last saw me. Everyone commented on my smart attire and happy demeanour during the day. I also loved spending a day with my parents who were really impressed throughout.

## Zoe's Charity Challenge



On Sunday May 23 2010, I took part in the Huddersfield Examiner Charity Challenge in Beaumont Park. With support from Lesley and Kevin, I completed the wheelchair route. It was a very hot day and we stopped halfway round for a very welcome ice cream (although Lesley and Kevin's cones melted all over them)!. I really enjoyed the day because everyone was friendly and cheered me on when I got to the finishing line. Afterwards we took part in a fun quiz about the history of the park. Best of all, I raised £50 for Kirkwood Hospice.

As told by Zoe Eke with help from Lesley Green

### *Note to St. Anne's Staff*

The St Anne's Green Strategy Group who work to promote a greener, efficient and more cost effective approach to the work of St Anne's have been meeting for a while. A number of green strategies have been recently employed and the group have set up an intranet area for staff to follow the work of the group, make suggestions and learn how they can make their



own contribution to a greener approach to both their work and home lives. Please see the link [green issues](#) to the right hand side of the intranet home page.