



John Lewis Partnership Working

We are extremely proud to announce that the Trust has been chosen by John Lewis Blue Water to be their partner charity for the next 2 years. We are especially pleased as the shortlist of charities who got through the initial bid stages, was put to a final vote by the staff - and they chose us!



We have already met with JLBW to see how we can work together and they have toured all our houses and shops to see where we are and what we do. The first project we will be organising is a redecoration of all the common areas in the houses - we will supply the materials and JLBW staff will supply the work-force. As soon as our residents have decided colour schemes it will be all systems go.



Thanks to the generosity of some of our supporters, we have received enough money to buy some of the houses, flat screen TV's. We bought 2 of these from JLBW and they have donated another two to the Trust so all the houses will now benefit from new TV's - and more space!

We have outlined some further work with JLBW and look forward to updating you with more progress in due course.

The Year of the Rabbit

In February, we helped our residents organise a celebration of Chinese New Year held at our North Farm House (any excuse for a party!). We had 2 chef's for the evening - one on the meat dishes and one on the vegetarian options. One was an ex-resident of ours who is training to become a chef, working at a local restaurant. The other was a current resident who just loves to cook, and as it turns out, both were excellent as all the dishes went



down a storm. The evening also included a Chinese themed quiz, the opportunity to contribute to a bespoke "wishing tree" which is now in our Resource Centre, and an attempt to send off some Chinese lanterns into the night sky. "Attempt" is probably the right word as unfortunately it started to rain which did not help. No matter, as it was a great evening and we are already organising a follow-up.

Hosanna Church Get Painting

In March we entertained a youth group from Hosanna Church in Worthing, who were visiting Tonbridge for the weekend. All Saturday afternoon they spent decorating the inside of our furniture warehouse with the help of some of our own residents. The result was a lot of aching arms, but a huge improvement to our warehouse - our thanks to Michelle and the other leaders and teenagers who did us proud.



The Empowerment Programme

Mentioned briefly in our last Bulletin, our new Empowerment Programme has taken-off with a vengeance. The new initiatives, centred around more and better Support options, have already started to make an impact:

- 1 resident won an apprenticeship with a social enterprise
- 11 residents attended the Chinese New year celebration
- 12 residents have taken part in the "Next Step" initiative to discuss career aspirations
- 10 residents participated in our Art Consultation which included their input into our new Residents Charter which will help shape our service in the future
- 5 residents have availed themselves of our new "Substance Missuse Triage" work provided for us in-house by Kenward Trust
- 12 residents have taken part in a money management workshop

An official launch of this programme took place on 19th March, in partnership with Town & Country Foundation

at the Trinity Theatre Gallery, Tunbridge Wells. It included displays of artwork that drew out our residents aspirations for their futures and what they liked and didn't like about what we do which will help us shape our future services. There was also a photo exhibition showing some of our residents, together with their own stories. The highlight of the evening was a talk by two of our residents that showed what a difference the programme has already made to them. A big thank you to Town & Country for sponsoring this event for us.



Beginnings of our Residents Charter

The Bridge Trust Sleep Out

Now is the time to register for our annual Sleep Out. Held in the grounds of Tonbridge School on the night of the 30th April, we are calling on all our supporters to volunteer to "sleep rough" for just one night. Bring your own cardboard boxes and sleeping bag and experience what it's like for so many people who have to do this for real.

Not only is it a good experience but it's actually good fun. Music will accompany your home-building efforts and prizes will be given for the best attempts. There will be hot drinks and refreshments and a complimentary bacon roll as your reward the next morning.

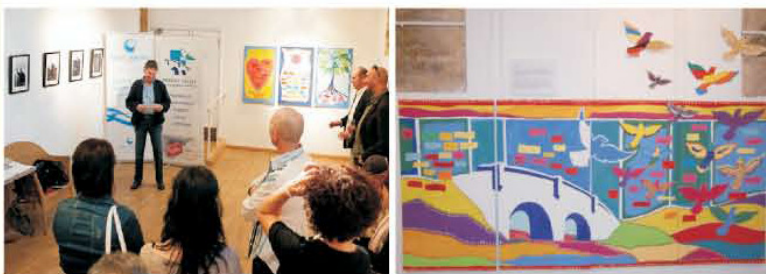
To register, please contact the Trust's office.

Acoustic Buffet

We are very excited about our next music event, to be held on the same evening as the Sleep Out. These are separate events but you could come along for both! You could enjoy a brilliant evening of good food and live music in the relaxed setting of Tonbridge School's "Old Big School Hall", and then bed down for the night, under cardboard in the school quad.

We really do need your support for this event, which we know will not disappoint. Please ring our office or visit the shops to buy tickets or to pre-book a whole table.

See our web site for details of both these events



Empowerment Project Launch and Exhibition



Residents Art Consultation Evening

The Bridge Trust Contact Details

Office

17A Quarry Hill Road
Tonbridge
TN9 2RN
01732 368363

Furniture Warehouse

9 Cannon Lane
Tonbridge
TN9 1PP
01732 365988

Tonbridge Shop

17 Quarry Hill Road
Tonbridge
TN9 2RN
01732 356955

Tunbridge Wells Shop

104 Camden Road
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 2QX
01892 526308

Southborough Shop

118 London Road
Southborough
TN4 0PN
01892 544854

Info@thebridgetrust.org.uk

www.thebridgetrust.org.uk

Reg Charity No. 1050291