

SOCIETY PEOPLE

THE VOICE OF THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE 04

GRANGE IS THE NEW GRUNGE

IN THIS ISSUE →
OUR ROVING
REPORTER
ROBERT
WISE



Kicking off the summer season with a fashionista vibe, our people at the Grange recently transformed their art room into a workshop of T-shirt-designing industry. Intent on creating unique one-off designs to rival any high-end fashion exclusivity, the Grange involved as many people as possible to learn screen-printing techniques to express their individuality.

Celebrating the creativity of our fashion students, our Grangers showcased their designs catwalk-style with a full-on fashion show. Fuelled by home made refreshments and oozing model confidence, the designers strutted and slinked to music composed and performed especially for the event by the Grange's equally talented band.

Deciding to keep the designs exclusive, unfortunately people aren't offering the T-shirts for general sale but check out the struts in the photographs above.

SURGe-ING FORWARD FOR ADVOCACY

People with learning disabilities in Camden have various advocacy groups to call if the going gets tough in getting the right support, making a complaint or finding out about rights.

This issue, Maureen McDonald from the Service User Reference Group, reports on her experiences and the great work of SURGe:

“ I belong to SURGe. Some people in the group are trained in advocacy, but I just go to the meetings. You have to be nominated to be in the group. We meet sometimes at Greenwood Place or at the Camden Society's Employment & Learning Centre. We talk about different things and organise events. We meet every Tuesday at 10.30, sometimes we stay late if we have lots to talk about. We all have diaries, so if anything comes up we can put it in our diary so we know when to meet.

We went to Camden Road and stayed for the day. We talked to people there about young people with physical disabilities.

We talked about money for them and the problems they face. SURGe is there to help people if they have a problem. Sometimes we go to the Town Hall to talk to people there, to tell them about our group and what we do.



Maureen McDonald from SURGe

If someone with a learning disability has a problem they should get in touch with Kath from The Advocacy Project and tell her about it.

The advocate would get someone from the group to go and talk with them and give them help.

I have been doing it a little while, but some people have been there a long time. It's a good group. ”

SAYING NO TO ABUSE: KEEPING SAFE TRAINING IN SOUTHWARK

With 9 out of 10 people with learning disabilities reporting harrassment or attack in the last year, our Southwark services took action to address the serious issue of abuse throughout the spring and summer.

Taking part in a course run by Louise Howarth from Norman Mark Training, service users in Southwark learned about different types of abuse, how to report it and how to keep safe.

After watching films made by people with learning disabilities, our course participants used games and art and drama workshops to find out more. It was a serious subject but everyone enjoyed the course and learned some great skills for protection against abuse, disability hate crime and bullying. Molly Cumberbatch, a course participant learned that “People can't make you do something that you don't want to do” whilst Michael Mayoss said “It was really good to find out about bullying – I enjoyed it a lot. I learned about what to do if someone is bullying you and that it's important to tell someone”.



Photo, from left to right: Dilber Mehmet, Olamide Allelade, Dennis Cammell

For more information contact The Advocacy Project.
Phone: 020 8962 8695 • Email: tap@advocacyproject.org.uk



FOCUS ON... EMPLOYMENT + ENTERPRISE

SERVICE USER TALENTS

MICRO-ENTREPRENEUR ☆☆☆ PAUL BOYLE ☆☆☆



Enterprising Paul Boyle from The Grange has been painting for many years using acrylic paint and pencil, producing beautiful images like the one of Battersea Power Station above.

Having decided to market his designs, Paul has produced a series of postcards which he now sells at a local stall. We caught up with Paul to ask him about his business:

How did you start up?

It was only for one day at E Street Market, that must have been about 4-5 weeks ago. There was a lady called Penny who works for EDAS, she encouraged me to come and sell my paintings there because I didn't know where to sell them. I displayed them on a table, postcards were 50p and greeting cards were £1. People were interested in them because there are more details in the paintings than in a regular postcard. In one day I sold 58 postcards. If you want to sell them don't put the price up too much or people won't want to buy them. I'd like to sell them more regularly but I need to have some more designs to sell to people or they'll get bored.

What are your most popular designs?

It must be the Battersea Power Station, they go quite quickly. I also have designs of Tower Bridge. I am working on one painting at the moment which is called Battersea Power Station Apartments. It's an idea from my own head where the power station has turned into luxury flats. I have put in more detail in this one.

Do you do commissions?

Yeah I can do that, I've done that for other people before. I painted a Winnie the Pooh picture for someone. I gave her the price and she bought it off me.

Besides your stall, can people buy from you in other ways?

I was talking to my support worker and he said that there is a company that could set up a website for me where I could sell my postcards, so I'm looking into that at the moment. It would be great to have that, then people can see my paintings on the internet.

For now, people can email me at:

thegrange@thecamdensociety.co.uk

TRAINEE WOWS DEBENHAMS

With a successful traineeship at our Romford-based Jackson's Cafe under her belt, Kelly Kerr has landed a permanent contract in the customer restaurant at Debenhams!

Catering on a temporary basis for last year's Christmas rush, Kelly impressed the Debenhams bosses with skills learned on the job at Jackson's. Keen to keep such a hard-working caterer, the store extended Kelly's contract, before making it permanent on 30 July.

Kelly is now working three days a week and proud of her success, is looking forward to her future as a valued member of staff.

Congratulations Kelly, we always knew you'd make it!

CLEANING UP IN THE LONG-SERVICE CATEGORY

Joanne Barry is a woman who definitely knows her feather dusters from her scourers and wipes, having recently chalked up a fantastic 10 years in her role as office cleaner at our Access to Employment Agency in Greenwich.

In recognition of such gleaming loyalty and sparkling hard work, AEA held an August celebration for Joanne, saying thank you and well done for her decade of dedication. Joanne was joined by her family, friends and staff from AEA and Community Link, Joanne's day service, to polish off a traditional Camden Society banquet of tea and cakes.

Excellent work Joanne! We hope they didn't make you do the washing up after!

FIRST CLASS ACHIEVEMENTS AT WORK TRAIN SOUTHWARK

South of the river, people from our Work Train project were congratulated on their success in bagging a number of work-related achievements at a recent event organised by Maggie Burke, Employment Advisor.

Having worked hard to build skills, experience and qualifications to support their CVs, Work Train users met up to receive certificates of achievement, to talk about their experiences and generally feel great about themselves!



Congratulations Work Trainers! We wish you all the best for your future job hunt

Photo, from left to right: Dennis Stoddard who completed a retail work placement and horticulture NVQ with Walworth Garden Farm. Rotimi Maderiola who has been volunteering with BTCV and who recently received an award for completing 100 hours of community voluntary work. Jessica Summerville who has worked hard to make her catering placement at Living Space Cafe a success. Suzanna Rider who is on the way to gaining her European Computer Driving Licence qualification. Bulent Absoglu who has learned new skills on a placement at Living Space Cafe and at Surrey Docks Farm, Steven Gator who has also completed a work placement & Maggie Burke.

DOUBLE CELEBRATION AS PROWORK GETS NEW CASH

News of extra funding for our ProWork Project was the icing on the cake at a recent celebration of the project's achievements. With money from Lambeth's Working Neighbourhoods Fund, the project will continue for another two years.

Tackling a national problem on a local level at Lambeth College, ProWork has helped 67 students over the last two years. Moving on from college has always been a challenge for many people with learning disabilities, however ProWork has created great new opportunities, supporting students into jobs and placements with companies across all business sectors. In July then, it was a joy to acknowledge the new funding and welcome 60 people to a 'Progression Event' at Roots and Shoots, a local environmental organisation.

Amid a reception of tea and cakes, Helen Key, ProWork's Co-ordinator told of the project's challenges and success before welcoming ProWork students to share their experiences. With paid work at the Curzon Cinema Group, Robert Cooper talked about his role in the glamorous world of celluloid while Amanda Dreyfuss beamed with pride as she shared stories of her catering competence while working for industry giant, Scolarest. John Ayoola and Martin Sobrino, together with their manager at Eaton House, the Manor School, explained how they'd worked together to make their catering jobs a tasty success and Sherri Buttery told us all about her office voluntary role.

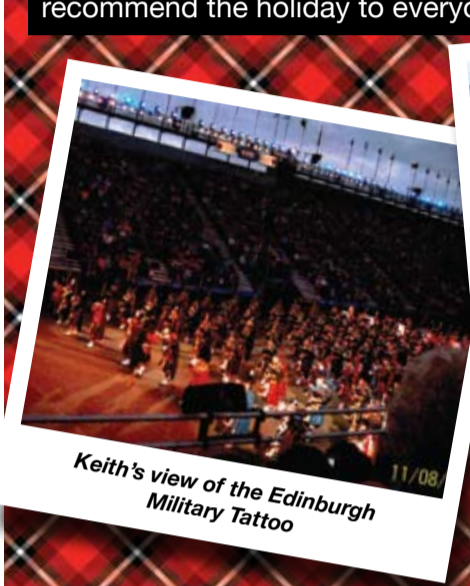
With thanks to Lambeth's WNF, ProWork has a bright future ahead. We look forward to covering more success stories in the future.

HOLIDAY REPORTAGE: KEITH'S SCOTTISH CRUSADE

Sharing his holiday stories and snaps, Keith Shortman from our City Living Services and a member of our Executive Committee, spills the beans on his summer break in Scotland:

"I went on holiday to Scotland with Claudia on the 9th to the 13th August. We went by coach to Newcastle, it took a few hours to get there. We travelled with Crusader Holidays. We were staying in Newcastle at the Imperial Swallow Hotel, it was fantastic and I would recommend it.

On different days we went out to different places. We went to see Hadrian's Wall, the Angel of the North, a big waterfall, and on the last day we went to Edinburgh to see the Military Tattoo. We saw lots of bands, everything was really lovely. We also saw the RAF Tornado, which is a fighter plane, it flew over the Tattoo. It was wonderful to see the giant waterfall as I have never seen one like that before. It is worth going to, I met loads of people, some of them were from Australia. I would recommend the holiday to everyone."



Keith's view of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo



Sightseeing in Edinburgh - Keith and the Duke of Wellington statue



En route to Edinburgh - Looking up to the Angel of the North

We're so glad you had a great time Keith, it sounds like "Good news, Kid!" to us!



WISE WORDS ROBERT REPORTS

Helping Society People by getting out to cover the latest at Mill Lane Garden Centre this summer, Robert Wise, our fabulous Administrator writes his first SP column - we hope it's going to be a regular feature here at SP:

I went to Mill Lane's party on September 3rd where they were celebrating Arthur Cottle's retirement. We had pizza and chips for lunch and I took some photos of people having fun. I also took some more photos of the lovely plants and flowers in the garden centre. There were lots of people there including Charlotte Antoniou and Richard Harrison, and a big group of people from Choices had come for lunch.

MY TRIP TO THE SEA BY JANICE ALLSOPP

Day-tripping Janice is well known at the Camden Society for her love of all things fun (and pink!). We weren't surprised then to receive her seaside scoop:

A few weeks ago I went to Southend, it's out of London, down by the coast. I chose to go there because it's a nice outing. There are loads of shops that sell postcards.

I've been to Southend before a few years ago with staff that used to work at the Camden Society. We went to the arcade and played on the fruit machines, I kept winning! There is a train that goes along the pier that we rode along which was a bit scary because I thought the pier might collapse, but it didn't. We went for walks along the beach, where we collected pebbles which we took home and put in our plant pots to make them look nice. A few of us went to the Aquarium, it cost £2 to get in and was a bit smelly. We saw lots of fish, there was one fish that poked his head out of the water and I stroked him.

We got the overland train to Southend. I don't mind trains but I would rather just be there. When we got there we bought lunch then headed to the sea front. Lunch was the best bit because you can't go on an empty stomach. We had a nice picnic sitting on the beach.

I really enjoyed my trip out of London and am going to go on other trips. I am going to Eastbourne this weekend.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS...

3

...MR SMITH

As Rita and Terry of Terry's Dance Music spun the golden oldie tea dance classics, Robert Smith from our Choices retirement project enjoyed a surprise party to celebrate his 50th in September.

Scoring a tasty nosh up including a football-inspired cake, Robert, a Chelsea FC fan, welcomed guests who'd travelled from all over London to join in the surprise. With an overflow into the sunny Choices garden, Robert beamed with delight, opening a mountain of cards and presents, while everyone chatted and danced to an afternoon of timeless tunes.

Happy 50th Birthday Robert!



...DORIS

Afternoon tea with a riverside view was the celebration of choice for Doris Morgan from The Grange recently.

Having clocked up a whopping 80 years, Doris headed down to the South Bank to sample the clotted cream scene for her birthday. While Doris thoroughly enjoyed her day, the celebrations continued with family and friends joining her for a party at home.

Happy 80th Birthday Doris!



**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSLETTER**



This newsletter is printed on recycled and FSC certified paper. Designed by Cassbinder. Email: info@cassbinder.com

