

Bangeston News

11 YEARS ACCREDITED



The National Autistic Society asked us to be part of a pilot project which reviews the whole accreditation process across the UK, as we have achieved accreditation for the past 10 years.



The new procedure involves much more emphasis on consistency of approach and using communication systems both throughout the day service and residential parts of the establishment. Thus generally bringing in a more thorough examination of the service in autism terms.

Bangeston Hall welcomes the more rigorous approach as we need to constantly challenge our provision and ensure we are moving with the times.

HEAD OF DAY SERVICES STARTS AT BANGESTON

Introducing David Gleed, Bangeston Hall's new Head of Day Services who brings enthusiasm, drive and a much needed fresh perspective to this important area.



This September **David Gleed** joined the team at Bangeston Hall as Head of Day Services. David has held various posts in Education, including, Head of Upper School at an Independent Residential Special School for young people with Pro-found and Multiple Learning Difficulties. David has also held a number of posts in Social Services including Manager of Bristol Adult Disability Service. His interests include visiting the theatre, walking and a recent addition, sea kayaking.

Communication underpins all that we do here at Bangeston Hall, and David is most keen to promote a united front on the part of all the Tutors to work together in a cohesive manner, and make sure that each of us have the same aims and objectives for our service users. This agenda will provide the consistent approach that is so vitally important for our service users.

Probably the biggest boost to this idea recently has been introduction of the **Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN)** programme) This may sound a rather grand title but is basically a kind of tailor made, pictorial 'life diary' which gives a great confidence boost to the individual concerned and allows anyone they wish to see the progress they have made in a concrete, easy to understand format.

Of course this does not preclude other traditional communication work. So for example some service users are now linked to the **Skype** system which allows parents and relatives direct, face to face contact with their loved ones using only some basic equipment. We have also piloted **Facebook** communication with some of our service users so that permitted family members can keep up to date with what their relative is doing. This has proved to be very popular and we will be contacting other families in the near future to see if they wish to use the service.



NEWS FROM THE HOUSE & LODGE

The summer seems to have passed quickly this year and service users have been quite busy. Everyone helped make some scenic horse jumps in the workshops for a local charity event, (how many people can say they have actually done something like that), Dan has finished his box to hold his CD collection and our new resident Martin did a portrait of Michael Jackson to hang on his wall.

Tom went to Newport to spend the day with his father, Mark went all the way to Richmond to visit his brother and Mike's mother came down from London to spend some time with him.



We also had an influx of wasps due to our grapes doing especially well this year and Martin and Dan both got stung. Dan did a 'Wanted Dead or Alive' poster to catch the wasp responsible.

Steve Cartwright & John Moody

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COTTAGE?

Lee and Rhys who both work in the Cottage started their quest between 17-19th September 2010 to complete the ascent of the three highest peaks in Britain - Ben Nevis in Scotland, Snowdon in Wales and Scafell Pike in England in just 24 hours!



They began with a morning ascent of Ben Nevis (1344m) before transferring to the Lake District and climbing Scafell Pike (978m) through the night with only a head torch for light. They then had an early morning ascent of the final mountain, Snowdon (1085m) to complete the challenge and finish with a celebratory breakfast. In the process they raised several hundred pounds for MIND the mental health support charity. Lee and Rhys would like to thank everyone for their support and also to Bangeston Hall for sponsoring them.

Also at The **Cottage**.....

All three service users in the cottage are on the ASDAN course, with Alan leading the way having just finished his making pictures project with Bex. The work has been sent off to be verified and a certificate will be on its way soon. Laura is not far behind and anticipates completing her first unit in the next few weeks. Chantelle is playing catch up having only started the project but she is racing ahead with Gibraltarian flair.

Mark Tattersall

STOCKWELL CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY



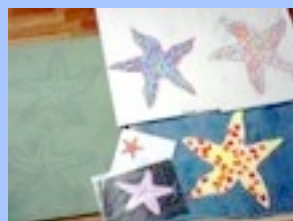
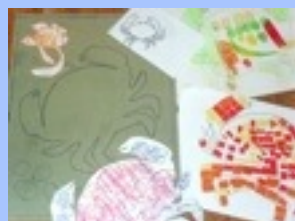
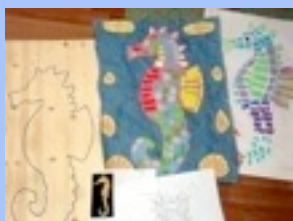
The 1st of September marked Stockwell Road's 1st anniversary. Alex, David and Richard marked the occasion with an evening buffet to which they invited friends from Bangeston Hall.

It has been a positive first year at Stockwell, all of the guys are well settled and enjoying the freedom and relaxed environment that living in the community has brought to them

Alex once said it was a dream come true moving into the house and a year later he continues to live the dream working 5 days a week now, having friends visit him and continuing to enjoy the views and fishing from Hobbs Point.

Mark Nicholas

SERVICE USERS FULFILLED WITH ART CLASSES



Thirteen service users attend their timetabled art sessions on a regular basis. These sessions are service user centered and led according to the needs of the individual.

Flexibility and several alternative tasks are important when planning and executing sessions, as situations can change rapidly in a challenging environment.

The aims behind all the sessions are: to set attainable objectives for the students; to make subjects relevant and engaging for the students; to provide as many different stimuli through the use of materials and processes, and to create pieces that challenge the student's skill and provide a sense of fulfilment and personal achievement.

The students taking part in ASDAN are nearing the end of their project, with some having completed their files and awaiting verification. The total sum made from their Mini-Enterprise making and selling hangings for Christmas and Valentines day was £46.30. this money will be ploughed back into the enterprise and put towards enamelling materials needed for an enamel jewellery project that students will be starting shortly, making and selling these gifts in time for this Christmas.

MICRO PIGS COMING TO BANGESTON HALL



In order to constantly develop new skills in the service users at Bangeston Hall we have decided to introduce some more animals onto our land. Micro Pigs were the popular choice and we have now been given the OK and received the necessary documents from the relevant authorities to make our purchase.

Micro pigs, originally imported from Vietnam, have been around for a couple of decades, but interest had died down in recent years. However Paris Hilton has one and the Beckhams have two so popularity has soared again. We have chosen them not for celebrity reasons but because we think they will bring another aspect of animal care to the site but in a manageable size.

If any one had concerns about the cleanliness of pet pigs, you will be pleased to know they are very CLEAN animals and mud is purely for their comfort. Outside of very hot summers pigs will steer clear of mud at all times, they use it purely to cool themselves off and stop sunburn/overheating.



The Learning Disability Coalition (LDC) has launched its campaign to Protect the Frontline, on the steps outside HM Treasury in London.

The Protect the Frontline campaign, which is supported by The National Autistic Society as a member of the LDC, calls on Central Government and local authorities to recognise that despite the tough financial climate, funding for learning disability services must be protected against any cuts.

The LDC published the findings from their Learning Disability Coalition Local Authorities Survey 'Social Care in Crisis' to support the need for the campaign. The survey showed that:

- 1 74% of local authorities were already making efficiency savings
- 2 10% had already been forced to make cuts to support services
- 3 84% rated the funding situation for learning disability services as difficult.

At the launch, a determined group of campaigners, many of whom use social care support, held "Cuts Incident" boards displaying the vital frontline services which they fear will be heavily affected by the Government's Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review.

Without social care support, they and many more people with a learning disability would not be able to meet their most basic needs, such as eating, personal hygiene, dressing, keeping safe and having somewhere to live.



The new Government has made a commitment to "fairness" in society, and "dignity and respect" for people with a disability. Social care support is just as vital to thousands of vulnerable people as doctors and nurses are to those who are unwell.

A CENTRE has been launched in Wales to improve research into the causes of autism.

The Wales Autism Research Centre at Cardiff University aims to improve scientific understanding of autism and make positive changes for those affected and their families.

Autism affects up to one child in every 100, causing difficulties in communicating, forming relationships and making sense of the world. The centre will research new areas in identification, diagnosis, development and intervention.

Projects already under way include research on sensory processing using neuro-imaging techniques and research on clinical symptoms and diagnostic tools and research on the effects of interventions.

Professor Susan Leekam, director of the centre, said: "The launch of the Wales Autism Research Centre marks the beginning of an exceptional opportunity to advance scientific research in Wales and internationally."

The centre was set up with support from charities Autism Cymru and Autistica and from the Assembly Government, as part of its autistic spectrum disorder strategic action plan.

Autism Facts

- Autism occurs in all countries and within all socioeconomic classes.
- Research indicates that the earlier the intervention, the better for people with autism.

Are we missing anything?

If you would like to see anything in the next edition of the newsletter or have any comments or questions about this one please feel free to email info@bangestonhall.net.

