

May 2007

the gap

because we don't want one between us and our friends
news, information and vision in this edition of the gap.

Mike Hyden – the Iron Man of the King's Arms Project – Have you sponsored him yet?

Mike, the intern based at the Nightshelter, is busy squeezing in as much training as he can before the big day on June 3rd. He has a huge endurance task ahead of him:

Mike writes: "I don't know if it is a "man pride thing", but if I hear of a physical challenge I'll have a crack at it – that is pretty much the



reason why I did the Bedford triathlon last year. Having recovered from the diarrhoea I got from swimming in the river, I realised it is a great way of raising funds for the Nightshelter. When someone told me about Weymouth's "middle distance" triathlon in June, I set my mind to the challenge. It's a 2km sea swim, 56 mile cycle and then a half marathon and God willing I hope to raise £2,000 - £3,500ish. Please pray that people will feel extra generous when I go round with my sponsor sheet and for good weather on the day."



The Weymouth Triathlon takes place on Sunday 3rd June. If you are interested in sponsoring Mike, please drop us an email at project@kingsarms.org or call Mike at the Nightshelter on 01234 266085. A ¼ of the money raised will go toward the Day Centre in Prebend Street. Thanks in advance for your support.

Training for staff at The King's Arms Project

Training throughout the project is always a rolling programme, partly because there are some courses that staff must do to comply with regulations. First Aid and Food Hygiene courses must be completed by all new staff in the houses and others need to keep up-to-date with their skills. On regular occasions it is good to bring as many of the team together as possible, so we can hear the same message.

Training which some have recently received includes:

- Introduction to Benefits course (run by Bedford Advice Forum)
- Drug and alcohol awareness training (run by Beds drug and alcohol team)
- Health and Safety seminar (run by Peninsular Business)
- Basic Word, Powerpoint, Publisher (course run by Beds CVS)
- Allocating and Monitoring Progress and Quality (run by Beds CVS)

A recent innovation has been to start a monthly "warrior school" – the intention is to provide Biblical teaching for each member of the team to help keep everyone envisioned, whilst also providing a foundation for the work of the project. Topics will include the habits of a good leader, the purpose and function of the church, listening to the Holy Spirit and Praying for one another. These are currently being organised by Zoejoy, the Nightshelter Manager. They are likely to be demanding, exciting and invaluable as we seek to serve God together and work on "**presenting one another mature in Christ**" (Colossians 1: 28)

Sarah takes up her new post – Update on Onward

You might remember reading in March's edition that Sue Clarkson had decided to move on from the Project as one of the Onward workers to do other things. Interviews produced a very high calibre of possible replacements, and Sarah Baldwin took up the challenge of filling Sue's shoes. Like Sue, Sarah had previously worked at the Nightshelter (and long before that had done a stint working at the Project) and started her new role on April 30th.

Sarah commented: I am very excited to be in post as I enjoy working with different people. I miss being at the Nightshelter but I know that I am in the right place. I am looking forward to seeing lives change as I spend time with all my clients."

Watch this space for further news – it is great to have Sarah on board as part of Onward (one to one floating support) and we are sure there will be many exciting stories to come.

Changes at the Nightshelter

Both the Nightshelter and Barton House are the same in that the furniture, paintwork, carpets etc all take a fair amount of wear and tear. They are like the Forth Road Bridge – as soon as you finish painting one end you have to get back to the beginning and start again. For some time, the flooring at the Nightshelter has needed replacing and it has looked even worse (if that were possible) since the new kitchen has been installed. A donation from the Bedford Lions meant we could get some new vinyl for the kitchen, which completed that room in a suitable fashion!



You might remember Ed Vaizey's work experience last summer. As MP for Wantage and Didcot, part of his brief was to go and find out what it was like to be involved in something like the King's Arms Project. Ed spent most of his time at the Nightshelter, and like everyone else noticed the carpets. After he had gone home he wrote to Lord Harris, the Chairman of Carpetright. They then got in touch with us, and after some conversation with the local Carpetright store, we got a substantial donation of carpet. This has now been fitted and has graced both lounges, the hall downstairs and the first flight of stairs. What a difference! Many thanks have been extended to all at Carpetright and Ed Vaizey.

Final Thoughts

Project life never seems to stay still which, if there was time to sit and think about it, would probably be regarded as a good thing! Some clients don't seem to stay long at all before moving on again. Others though start to become familiar faces and then seem to become part of the extended family. This transition always feels right, as God has promised to put the lonely into families (Psalm 68 verse 6). The potential danger is that you can think individuals will be around forever, and when something happens and they are not, it can come as an unpleasant shock.

These shocks need to be acknowledged, processed and prayed about – they always require God's perspective to be thrown upon them. By God's Grace they can help us shake off any complacency and keep reminding us to be reliant on Him. So, while I am not advocating shock therapy (and don't enjoy it), I can sometimes see why God does it. Only sometimes mind you!!!

Ruth (Editor)

There are currently a number of job vacancies at the King's Arms Project – if you are interested in finding out more please either email project@kingsarms.org or phone the office on 01234 306501. Or, if you would like to see first hand the work of the King's Arms Project, please contact us for a visit.