

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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October 2017



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One Year On...

Karen Ferguson, Services Co-ordinator

As we celebrate the first full year of our Intensive Support Service, built following the £3 million Capital Appeal, I look back at what has been achieved over the year.

Firstly, we have five young people staying in the two new residential houses and they are thriving on achieving their own personal outcomes.

It was a lot to ask of the young people to come into a new environment, be looked after by a new team of support workers and build relationships and share spaces with new young people. However, they have adapted incredibly well and are making East Park their home.

The personal achievements of the young people vary from individual, some small and some huge but equally important and these are celebrated with our young people.

We have a young person within the service who struggled to attend school, before coming to East Park she had not been in education for almost a year. Since coming to

the intensive support service and through consistent joint working with our education department she is now in full time education and thriving, working on alternative communication techniques, building up experiences in the community and making positive contributions to her school and house environment.

Through consistent and committed joint working one of our young men is building positive relationships in education, accessing the community and utilising outdoor learning experiences.

As with all our services supporting the young people to reach their maximum potential is our priority however this cannot be done without a committed and enthusiastic staff team. Opening a new service and bringing new staff from all walks of life together can be a challenge. However, this team has wholeheartedly embraced the challenge, thinking outside the box and have put into practice the social pedagogical method

of building strong individual relationships and finding a common bond between each one of them and the individual young people. This has had a significant and positive impact on the young people's experiences, relationships and working together to improve their skills.

It is with this attitude that the team was awarded *Highly Commended Top Team* at the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care Awards 2017. As the manager of this service, I nominated the team for this award to recognise their hard work, the challenge of the past year and their unfaltering commitment to improving the lives of our young people.

It goes without saying that the team did not work alone, we work jointly with our colleagues in the school to ensure our children are provided with the consistency in all aspects of their lives and we embrace the approach that every environment and activity is a learning opportunity.

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Thank You Clyde College

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Celebration of Learning



Pupil, Nadia receiving her gift and certificates from trustee, Helen Glen.

We all enjoyed a celebration of learning event back in June where young people and staff were commended on their learning and achieving throughout the year. Fellow colleagues, friends and family all joined together to celebrate our successful learners, responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors.

Our young people from Workmates also celebrated their hard work through the year for achievements such as litter picking, music, cooking and attending college.

We also had some special awards. Emma Fanning won

our music award, Cameron Freeburn won our sports cup, Melissa Patton from Workmates won the Burnet Shield, Amanda Harte won pupil of the year and Aimee Flynn won our Martin's Cup for overall achievement.

We said farewell to our leavers, Liam Cowan, Aimee Flynn and Gurpreet Singh from school and Sara Hewitt and Melissa Paton from Workmates.

Overall, all staff, young people, friends and family had a great time celebrating all the achievements of our young people.



Toot Toot to the Taxi's



The taxis are ready to go!

The children, young people and their support workers had yet another fun filled day out thanks to the Glasgow Taxi Outing Fund in June. The taxis, kitted out in balloons and ribbons, took the young people to Troon for the day where

they enjoyed a party at the beach front!

We would also like to thank Glasgow Taxi's for their generous donation of fidget spinners for the children and young people in the School, Workmates and residential houses.

GREEN FINGERS



We are thrilled to have been awarded the highest level 5 from the Royal Horticultural Society's School Gardening Campaign for our Sensory

Garden, 'The Den'. The young people have proudly developed and maintained 'The Den' by creating a beautiful multi-sensory space. This has encouraged the young people to explore, touch, smell, taste and interact with particular plants, features and objects



in the garden and promotes health and wellbeing. This award shows our achievement in creating a safe and engaging outdoor space where our young people can connect with nature and encourages learning, integration with peers, stimulation and relaxation.

Happy Retirement to Christine Cranston



Christine Cranston joined East Park in 1996, becoming Depute Head Teacher in 2009. Christine's dedication, hard work and commitment to the young people over the past 21 years has contributed to the achievements of many, many children and young

people. We are indebted to her for her support to families, young people and staff from across East Park.

The young people and staff held a French Café morning with pastries and treats as a send-off for Christine. We wish Christine a long and happy retirement!

JOHN'S FIRST BUS EXPERIENCE



John, the bus driver-to-be!

During the month of July, resident John visited Caledonia bus depot for a guided tour of First Bus. John is a big fan of buses, and would love to drive them when he is older, so he was very excited to go along.

On arrival, John met up with George McLeod who very kindly arranged the tour especially for John. John was taken around First Buses head office, accessing all areas including the training department and gym. In training, John was taken through DVDs of local bus routes,

which are used to train new drivers, and he was able to select his preferred route to take home with him, this of course made John even more excited about the prospect of driving buses one day.

Next stop on the tour was the work shop, George showed John all the buses that were in for repair and introduced him to some of the mechanics. The team made John a personalised First Bus number plate with his name on, which John was ecstatic about. For John though, it was the final stop on the

tour that he enjoyed the most. John accessed a number of buses, was taught how to start the engine, work the doors, wipers, indicators and beep the horn. He thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and took the controls of around ten different buses. He did not want to leave!

John described his experience at First Bus as 'fantastic', and always asks to go back. John wants to say a massive thank you to George, and everybody else at First Bus who made his day visiting the depot so enjoyable!

Developing Communication



Staff pose their favourite Makaton sign

East Park has gratefully received financial support from a number of supporters to train its staff in the use of Makaton. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. Staff will be trained in the use of Makaton, enhancing their communication skills with the children and young people, as well as providing them with the knowledge and skills to share and train fellow staff members in using Makaton within East Park.

Our staff will undertake a 3 stage training course, firstly learning the language themselves and embedding what they've learned into their work with the children and young people and utilising their new skills with confidence. Secondly, staff will learn how to train their colleagues at East Park in the use of Makaton. They will be able to use real life examples and

challenges encountered every day in their work and with their new training skills transfer their knowledge and understanding to their colleagues.

Two staff members will attend an enhanced course, providing them with the skills to become Regional Trainers where they will be able to train parents and families of the young people, as well as other professionals.

This project will equip our staff, young people and families with vital communication skills that will help our young people reach their full potential.

We would like to thank the Hospital Saturday Fund, The Margaret Murdoch Charitable Trust, WM Mann Foundation, Miss Mary Dunlop Murdoch Andrew Charitable Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, East Park Children's Trust and Revo Scotland for their support.

Farewell to Trustee Ken McChlery



from the local community, companies, celebrities and trusts, saying, "the generosity of the Glasgow people is fantastic and we have been blessed with their continued support".

"Retiring from the Board has been one of the hardest decisions I've had to make in my life. It has left a big hole. However, my confidence in the Board of Trustees has never been higher and I can retire in the knowledge that the Board has grown into a governing body with exceptional expertise that will look after East Park and its young people."

Ken's parting words to the Board were, "The children and young people are always the most important, do the very best you can for them."

"Ken has been a wonderful ambassador for the organisation. On behalf of all at East Park, we are grateful for Ken's dedication and support to East Park over the years." Kenneth Pinkerton, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Personal and family commitments have become a priority for Ken but he is still supporting East Park where he can. "East Park has become an integral part of my life and I will always have time for the children and young people."

After 34 years of volunteering for East Park, as a member and former Chair of the Board of Trustees, it is with a heavy heart that Ken McChlery retires from the Board.

Ken has seen East Park change and grow into a vibrant organisation that strives to give children and young people with the most complex additional support needs the best chance in life. In turn, East Park has helped him to understand the challenges experienced by the children, young people and their families, celebrate their successes and recognise the value in each and every young person supported by East Park.

Committed to seeing through the recent £3 million development of the new Intensive Support Services, Ken talks of the support



Fundraising & Volunteers

Brilliant Bearsden!



Over the past 6 months we have had a group of volunteers from Bearsden Academy who

are working towards their John Muir Award. The volunteers have done a fantastic job by creating a bright, engaging area of the garden for residents which includes newly planted herbs (which the young people are using in their cooking!), brightly coloured flowers, bird feeders, sensory activities and much more!

Thank you so much to both Ms Regan and pupils who helped create this beautiful space!

THANK YOU CLYDE COLLEGE!



Recently, a Bridge to Further Education class from Glasgow Clyde College very kindly

chose the children and young people of East Park to custom make sensory blankets for their project.

The group came in and gathered information about the young people's preferences and came back a few months later with beautifully designed, personalised fidget blankets. Thank you so much to all involved, the blankets are great and the young people love them!

Kelbourne Saint

Local pub, Kelbourne Saint, on Queen Margaret Drive hosted a Market & BBQ on Sunday 11th June to celebrate the West End Festival and raised a fantastic £205 for East Park. A special thank you to all the staff at Kelbourne Saint and the suppliers and

vendors for their donations: Woodwinters Wines, Cafe da Sara, Kiehls, Rawnychy, Alliance Catering Supplies, West Beer & Kained group.



Happy for us to keep in touch?

East Park would love to continue to share the achievements and learnings of our children and young people by sending you our quarterly East Park Patter. However, if you would rather not receive this newsletter please complete this tear off slip and return to **Fundraising, East Park, 1092 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 9TD.**

Glasgow Connections



On Saturday the 15 July, the launch concert of this new event took place at Maryhill Burgh Halls where local celtic soul with rock and roll band Possil Mor and New Orleans Blues, Soul & Funk band Charlotte Marshall and the 45's put on incredible performances.

Glasgow Connections is a new music, arts and community festival created to embrace Glasgow and the artistic, family, roots and traditions that help to create this great city's identity.

A collection on the night raised a fantastic £81.74 for East Park. A big thank you to everyone who came along on the night to support this wonderful community festival.

BD Phantoms

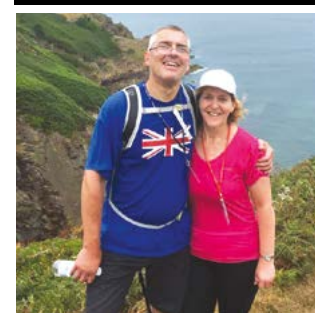


Julie, Gordon & Sam at the Half Tough Mudder

East Park staff, Julie Lochrie, Sam Wilson, Gordon Watson and their friends and family took on the Half Tough Mudder on the 18th June. Braving the 5 mile challenge with 13 obstacles of scrambling, climbing, swimming through mud and the

black hole (to name but a few), the BD Phantoms conquered what is dubbed 'the toughest event on the planet'. Huge congratulations and thank you to the Team who raised an incredible £652.50 for East Park.

Island Walk



Jennifer and Colin on the Jersey Island Walk

Congratulations to Jennifer and Colin for completing the 48 mile Jersey Island Walk in June in support of their nephew who is a pupil at East Park. Their friends and family sponsored a brilliant £634! If you fancy taking on a challenge for East Park, the Fundraising Team would love to hear from you on 0141 946 2050 or email fundraising@eastpark.org.uk

I would **not** like to receive the East Park Patter anymore

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