

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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In this issue...

01
Welcome from
Kenneth Pinkerton,
Chairman of
East Park

02
Finnish Visitors
Team of The Year
Award

03
Glasgow Taxis
to Troon
William's
Work Experience

04
Tesco Bank
support
East Park Pacers
strike again

Welcome to eastparkpatter



Kenneth Pinkerton, Chairman of East Park

In April, Kenneth Pinkerton was appointed Chairman of East Park. Since 2012 Kenneth has served as a Trustee and he takes over his new role at a very exciting time in East Park's history.

"Our £3 million fundraising efforts have almost reached their target and this summer we will see work begin on the new teaching and residential accommodation," he says.

For Kenneth, this new development is just part of the on-going commitment by East Park to forge ahead and not rest on its already considerable achievements. This constant striving to improve what is on offer to residents and pupils and to set the standard for care and education of people with autism and other supported learning needs, is a very large part of the reason why Kenneth first became

involved with the organisation.

"I had already served on the board of another charity but when I found out that East Park was looking for Trustees I came to see them and I was taken by the very

I have witnessed the great difference that the support given here can make to people's lives.

forward-thinking and supportive environment that I witnessed." Since then Kenneth, who is a lawyer with the firm of Turcan Connell where he specialises in charity law, says he has found his involvement with the young people at East Park to be "very humbling."

"I have witnessed the great difference that the support given here can make to people's lives."

Two years ago Kenneth and several of his colleagues from Turcan Connell took to the streets of the city to run the Glasgow Half Marathon in support of East Park's efforts to raise money for iPads, coaxing sponsorship out of friends and colleagues.

"When I explained to them that these iPads weren't toys but were vital tools for communication, then it made it much easier to persuade them to donate." As Chairman Kenneth heads a board that he describes as "positive and interactive."

"I wanted to be associated with East Park because I was keen to know more about social care and education. It has taken me out of my comfort zone and proved to be a hugely enjoyable experience. I am looking forward to serving the next three years as Chairman."

EAST PARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER REGULATED BY THE CARE INSPECTORATE AND EDUCATION SCOTLAND

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LOTTERY FUNDED



Highly Commended Team of the Year Award



Support workers of the winning team with the young people they support

On 9th June, a team from one of East Park's residential houses won Highly Commended Residential Team of the Year Award at the Scottish Institute for Child Care (SIRCC) Awards 2015.

East Park Residential Care Team Leader, Karen Ferguson, made the nomination to celebrate a team who are highly skilled in

supporting young people with autism spectrum disorder, attachment disorders, challenging behaviours and communication difficulties.

Karen said, "We are a very close working team who have shared good times, challenging times, supported each other in times of need, celebrated with each other and looked out for each other."

"Every member of staff in this team brings a unique quality and the respect they have for each other's skills is admirable."

"We are a team that perseveres, thinks outside the box and strives to teach the young people coping strategies to utilise throughout their lives, giving them every opportunity to succeed."

This was a competitive category in the SIRCC Awards and East Park is delighted that the staff have been recognised for the incredible work they do to support the young people, giving them a place to call home that offers a nurturing environment where they feel comfortable and secure to express themselves and their needs.

Finnish Visitors

On 22 April East Park welcomed 30 senior representatives from social care and children's support organisations in Finland.

Judy Cromarty, East Park's Executive Director, along with Education and Residential Care staff presented on each of our services, sharing best

practice of how East Park is providing specialist care and education to children and young people in Scotland.

The visit was incredibly well received and created positive opportunities for both our Finnish visitors and the children and young people of East Park.



East Park at SPIFOX EVENT



Judy Cromarty, Executive Director, and Patsy Douglas, Parent Representative and Board member, very much enjoyed representing East Park at the annual Spifox Glasgow Lunch on 1 May. Spifox supports charitable projects that benefit

children and young people in Scotland and they are making a very generous donation to the new development at East Park, in particular to the Natural Play Garden which will enhance the children's outdoor learning experiences and playtime.

Spifox... are making a very generous donation to the new development at East Park

William's work experience



William to engage with his local community. His previous work experience placements included the Shelter Charity shop and this new placement will broaden his skills learnt.

William's key worker, Michelle, said "This placement has been a positive experience for William and we hope it will lead to greater opportunities for him in the future. The staff at Clyde Shopping Centre have been fantastic at welcoming William into their team and have involved him in many duties."

Our Workmates programme, for 18-25 year olds, aims to maintain skills already learned and develop new ones. The young people are supported to participate in work experience, community initiatives and further education activities, preparing them for adult life.

Workmates has supported William over the last 7 years, enhancing his skills and experiences to help him to move on into the adult world of work and life when he turns 25 next year.

Our Workmates programme is supporting one of its young people, William, to begin a new work experience. William works each Monday afternoon at Clyde Shopping Centre and is thoroughly enjoying the responsibility. He works with customer services and the security team and takes great pride in wearing the uniform. William has been helping at the customer service desk, directing shoppers looking for information and taking bookings for the kids' club. He particularly enjoys the responsibility when working with the security team, being in the CCTV room and checking the shop units. As a local resident, this has been a fantastic opportunity for

Glasgow Taxi's to Troon



The much loved Glasgow Taxi Troon Outing is celebrating 70 years of treating children with additional support needs to their annual fun day outing to Troon. The taxi drivers deck out their taxis with colourful balloons, dress in fancy dress and donate their time to take the children, along with their parents and carers, on a journey to the seaside for the day.

Every year the Glasgow Taxi Outing Fund has provided a fun filled day in Troon where the children enjoy playground rides and lots of activities fully supported by the residents of Troon.

This much anticipated

day originated in 1945 when three Glasgow taxi drivers treated the children from East Park to an outing to the coast. Today, it has become an anticipated event benefiting over 400 young people with additional support needs from across the city.

East Park is thrilled to have partnered with Glasgow Taxi Outing Fund, whilst celebrating their 70th and our 140th anniversaries, in launching the 2015 Outing to Troon. Kelvingrove Museum is showcasing artwork by the children and historical photographs and memorabilia throughout the 70 years of the Glasgow Taxi Outing's to Troon.

Overwhelming Easter generosity

Everyone at East Park is very thankful for the support of J.S Harvie Ltd and Just Employment Law employees and the generous anonymous

donors for the Easter Eggs donated. The children and young people were thrilled (to say the least!) with their eggs.





Fundraising & Volunteers

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK



This year World Autism Awareness Week ran from Friday 27th March culminating on World Autism Awareness Day on Thursday 2nd April.

As an Autism Accredited centre, East Park celebrated the campaign by having an 'Everything East Park Blue Day' where the children, young people and staff dressed in blue. We had lots of blue decorations and the children and young people each enjoyed a blue themed snack bag. Staff, parents and the

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children and young people took part in our fundraising games of 'Guess the number of Sweets in the Jar' (kindly donated by Jamie's Ices) and took part in a raffle for tickets to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* showing at the King's Theatre in August

2015 (kindly donated by Glasgow Theatres) raising over £250 for East Park.

Thank you very much to all who donated and supported us to help raise awareness of autism and East Park.

East Park Pacers Strike Again

On Sunday 12th April a group of staff, friends and family from East Park took part in The Glasgow Kiltwalk walking the 26, 15 or 6 mile route from Glasgow to Balloch. Over £1,500 was raised by the East Park team so the sore legs and blistered feet were worth it! East Park will receive 50% of the team's funds raised from The Kiltwalk. Congratulations to those who took part and thank you to everyone who supported them through



sponsorship and cheers of encouragement on the day.

EVERY LITTLE BIT AMOUNTS!

Over the past couple of years, almost £6,000 has been donated by employees and clients of JE Marr & Co. East Park is so grateful to JE

Marr & Co for encouraging such generous and continued support. This shows that every little bit amounts to something great!

Thank you M&S BEARSDEN



Staff at Marks & Spencer Bearsden chose East Park as their local Charity of the Year and raised an incredible £1,177.35.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the staff for hosting charity

days throughout the year, putting on delicious bake sales and raising awareness and funds for East Park. We are also very grateful to the M&S Bearsden customers for their support and generous donations.

TESCO BANK EMPLOYEES DONATE TIME & EXPERTISE



A huge thank you to the employees of Tesco Bank who chose to support East Park through their community service day.

The Collections & Recoveries Team from Glasgow cleared out a derelict building, painted the boardroom and classrooms and cleaned the outside areas and garden, saving East Park almost £10,000! During the month of April, the team not only volunteered their time but collected toys and books for the children, raised £370 from a bake sale and raised

awareness about East Park in their office.

The Communications & Community Engagement Team from Edinburgh used their community service day to share their expertise with East Park staff in a workshop facilitated by Progress Sponsorship & Communications. An incredibly valuable day of learning and knowledge sharing!

East Park is very grateful for their continued support and hopes to welcome more volunteers from Tesco Bank soon.