



The Marylebone Project appoints new 'General Manager'

Bill Gallagher worked at the Marylebone Project some four years ago as a Unit Manager. After a short time away from the project - to work with other homeless charities - Bill returned in June 2011, after being successfully appointed to the post of General Manager.

Bill has taken over the management of the project from Director Neil Biles, who was seconded by Church Army during 2009 to help the Marylebone Project through a period of transition. Neil Biles remains closely involved with our work and we are grateful to him for his continued support.

Reflecting on his first few months in post Bill writes;

"It is a privilege to be back at the Marylebone Project and to see the leaps and bounds made since I left four and a half years ago. We have incredible staff, volunteers, donors and partners who are always prepared to go more than the extra mile to help ensure the women we serve get the best possible help and resource in their journeys.

The numbers, statistics and feedback received are a credit to Neil Biles, the management and staff team, including our valued volunteers, who have demonstrated amazing energy and commitment to take the project to its current stage. Neil reflects on his time with the project later in this newsletter and I would like to say a big thank you for leaving the project in such good health.

The four themes of Spirituality, Hospitality, Empowerment and Resettlement will continue to contribute to the ongoing development of our work. There is a strong foundation on which to build and it will be a challenge to ensure the momentum continues. Our ambition will be to exceed the expectations of the women we serve and to see the vibrant prayer life, stunning resettlement numbers and increasing sense of empowerment together with our well developed sense of hospitality (those of you who made it to the tea party celebration on the 6th July 2011 will have seen the evidence of this).

I would like to add my thanks to everyone who contributes to the work at the project (in whatever way). As a project we have benefited from a great range of not only practical service but also input into our culture and understanding of how we can improve on many areas of service. Again you will find more detail further on in this newsletter but as a staff group we are grateful for all the help in making this work even more effective".



Bill

Marylebone Project signs up to the Living Wage Campaign

The Living Wage Campaign calls for every worker in the country to earn enough to provide their family with the essentials of life. In London the current Living Wage rate is £8.30 per hour, some £2.30 above the National Minimum Wage.

During July 2011 the Marylebone Project board took the decision to ensure that all staff, including agency workers, would receive the London Living Wage.

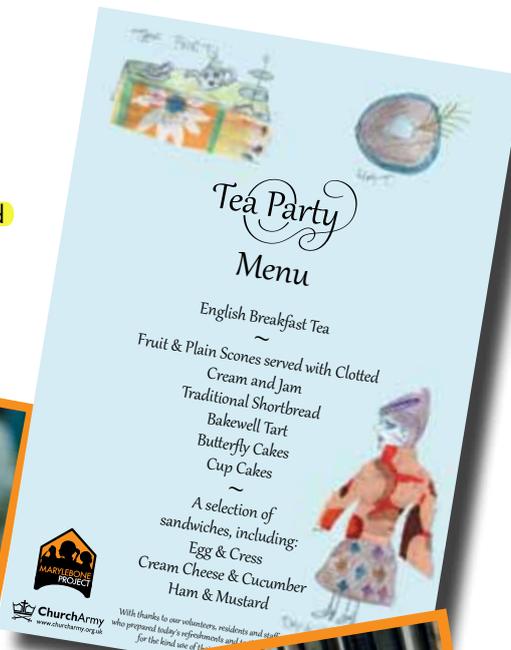
Campaigners have welcomed the news that our charity has joined the 155 organisations in the City and the public sector, which have signed up to the living wage.

Neil Jameson, of Citizens UK and lead organiser at London Citizens, which launched the living wage campaign in 2001, said: "We are delighted Church Army is setting an example. Two hundred people will be lifted out of poverty wages - that's 200 families whose lives will be improved."

Tea Party Celebration

On Thursday 6th July supporters, clients, residents and staff joined together for a tea party. The occasion was to celebrate the successes of the Marylebone Project, to highlight the many achievements made by our residents and clients, and to thank supporters and staff for their valued contributions to our work.

The venue was the beautifully sunny courtyard at Bradbury House, Cosway Street, which had been transformed into a scene straight from the 1930's. **Around 80 guests enjoyed a traditionally English afternoon tea complete with fine china and tableware, which was generously loaned from our wonderful neighbours at the Landmark Hotel.**



Residents, volunteers and staff prepared and served a splendid array of sandwiches and cakes, which were accompanied by gallons of tea!

Our newly formed 'Marylebone Singers' - a group of women comprised of clients and residents - sang with heart and confidence, their voices filling the courtyard and adding greatly to the party atmosphere.

Speeches were made by Marylebone Project Director Neil Biles, newly appointed General Manager Bill Gallagher, and Church Army Board Member Des Scott. Neil spoke to the women and reminded them that they were all "Very Special People" he also reaffirmed the shared values of the Marylebone Project, that being; Spirituality, Hospitality, Empowerment and Resettlement.

A number of presentations were made to clients, residents, staff and volunteers in recognition of their special achievements and in thanks for service.

The event was a huge success and many of the women spoke afterwards about how they had enjoyed this year's celebration. This being our second annual celebration



event - last year we held a Caribbean themed party - we are already making plans for next year's, which will be held on 5th July 2012!

Very special thanks goes to all those that helped with making the event such a success including; Maria Hagi-Pavli, Angela Owen, Kirsten Hanke, the staff of the Marylebone Project, the Landmark Hotel and the ladies of St. Paul's, who provided baked goods. We also wish to thank all those supporters that attended.

A final thank you must go to the clients and residents at the Marylebone Project, for giving us so many reasons to celebrate.

By James Marlow

Staff Updates

A very warm welcome to our newest members of staff at the Marylebone Project:

Bill Gallagher - General Manager

Izaliana Parente - Night Support Worker

Carolyn Dembowski - Time for God Volunteer

The following team members have been appointed new roles at the Marylebone Project; we wish them well with their continued work:

Oliver Taylor - Receptionist

Since the last newsletter we have said a fond farewell to a number of staff members and volunteers. We wish them all well in their future endeavours:

Szabina Sztojka - Time for God Volunteer

Miriam Block - Time for God Volunteer

Clare Carty - Support Worker

Tsarfrira Wright - Support Worker

Jacqueline Johnson - Support Worker

The Marylebone Project is grateful to those that have generously volunteered their time:

Camilla Simpson

Susanne Humphrey

Julie Willoughby

Rose Frater

Nicola Rusk

Amina Begum

Jennifer Luckso

TimeBank continues to flourish

A significant change that we have seen during the 2nd phase of the scheme is the number of women coming forward with their own ideas for exchanges that they would like to do.



The range of opportunities to earn time credits continues to grow and includes the following; 1:1 Italian conversation, 1:1 German conversation, 1:1 piano lessons, Time Bank Newsletter group, fundraising mail-outs, Sweet Notions workshops, Valentia Suite coffee morning, 1:1 help with form filling, gardening, a range of activities during Homeless Action Week, recruitment of Project staff, setting up for events and delivery of Prêt Sandwiches.

Members have now a total of 1102 Time Credits, of those 705.5 credits have been earned in the last six months

Spending Time Credits

We have been given further tickets from Merlin Entertainments this time from the London Eye and the London Aquarium. Time Bank Members can redeem these tickets after earning a minimum of 10 Time Bank Credits. Letters have also been sent to theatres and cinemas requesting free tickets. As a result of our partnership with the West End Time Bank our members are able to exchange their time credits for tickets at the Soho Theatre and Wigmore Hall. Time Bank members have also been able to exchange their time credits for fabulous designer boots and shoes donated by Sweet Notions. Chris Swift organised an event for this to happen on Thursday 10th February at Elgood House

Time Bank Newsletters

The Time Bank Newsletter group has been going extremely well, meeting its production deadlines for the 3rd and 4th publications. It is really exciting to see how the group has developed since its inception in November 2010. Whereas initially, the group needed a lot of direction and guidance by the time of their second publication (newsletter number 4) there were notable differences in both design and content. The group clearly took ownership and responsibility; generating ideas, using their initiative and involving other members from the Time Bank in the process.



Sweet Notions

The workshops continue to generate a high level of interest amongst the women. On average around ten women attend each week, although this has increased over the last few weeks with up to eighteen taking part. There are some fantastic individual achievements being made and two of the women have now taken on leadership roles within the sessions. Veronica now leads on the jewellery making session and Adel is teaching the group how to crochet.

Shannon Hopkins continues to introduce exciting new initiatives to the sessions. In May she organised for Jill Reno, a well known American jewellery designer, to come into the Project to deliver a number of workshops as part of the Sweet Notions design camp. **Jill taught the women how to make two of her own unique designs and these were sold at a pop up event at The Landmark Hotel.**

By Maria Hagi-Pavli

A big thank you to...

Novotel London Paddington who donated 78 pillows.

Statoil who donated lots of lovely framed artwork to brighten up the communal areas at the project.

Timex Fashion Design Limited for generously donating some computer equipment and lots of ladies clothes.

The Landmark Hotel for the loan of their tea service and for providing us with a fantastic venue for our Sweet Notions 'pop up boutique.

All those that continue to support our Time Bank project.

Neil Biles reflects on his final year as Interim Director



The ability to make choices empowers the women, and this has been developed through delivering various activities in group's and one to one sessions. Two successes I want to highlight are 'Sweet notions' and the 'Time Bank Scheme'.

Sweet notions is about repurposing unwanted gifts such as jewellery & accessories through design camps where the women can meet, eat and chat together whilst releasing their creative skills.

Under the Time Bank Scheme women can earn one Time Bank Credit for each hour worked.

They can exchange these credits for other activities, skills or to purchase

Project into independent accommodation – an increase of 59% on the previous year. This has not been an easy task and the staff team at our transitional unit, Elgood House have worked hard to develop partnerships with Private Landlords and Housing Associations. At the same time we have been able to reduce the number of women staying over two years by 52%.

Our Women's Day Centre continues to provide practical support and advice to female rough sleepers and those at risk of becoming homeless. Over the past year around 150 women have used the service, many on a daily basis.

Investing in people's lives is key to the way we work at the Marylebone Project, believing that all women are "Very Special People" we consider it a privilege to journey with them. Our example is Jesus Christ who journeyed with women during His three year ministry valuing and empowering them.

Over this last year we have developed our four themes of Spirituality, Hospitality, Empowerment and Resettlement. Reflecting on these themes Mark Dadds, who has oversight of Spirituality, has increased the awareness of spirituality through various programmes and activities, and our International Time for God volunteers are an integral part of this.

A warm welcome is so important, and at the heart of hospitality is the giving of ourselves alongside providing food and drinks. One lady said of her time at the Project that her first impressions were that the Project was clean and tidy, the staff were friendly and that she felt comfortable with the thought of living there.



Resettlement has continued to soar this year with 111 women moving on from the



A key to all this success is 'partnership' and over this last year we have made some significant ones. Partnerships with Time for Paddington, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, the Landmark Hotel, Sweet notions, Genesis Housing and other Time Bank Schemes.

Our thanks go to our supporters who pray and give. The volunteers who give their time and energy. To our corporate partners who provide volunteer hours and various gifts. To the staff team who give of themselves to make the Marylebone Project what it is. Most importantly the women who we seek to serve. It has been an exciting year journeying with the women and an enormous privilege seeing lives changed and transformed. To God be the glory.

Neil Biles - Director