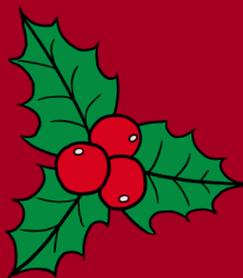




KASBAH News



December 2021

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S FARM UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Kent County Council (KCC) is pleased to announce that a new provider has won the contract to provide services to disabled people at the much-loved Princess Christian's Farm and it will remain open in the future.

KASBAH (Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus) will take over management of the service on 1 November. The charity is open to any disabled person in Kent and currently provides a wide range of support services to meet individual needs and promote independence. KASBAH brings a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience for the people who access Princess Christian's Farm.

Set over 116 acres of stunning pasture and woodland in Hildenborough, Princess Christian's Farm regularly supports up to 25 adults per day providing a person-centred environment for people with vulnerabilities to improve a multitude of skills in a land-based setting, including caring for animals and horticulture, and going forward, the addition of daily living skills.

The Farm was previously managed by Hadlow College however, after entering a process of Educational Administration in 2019-2020, they were taken over by North Kent College. This year the college took the difficult decision to concentrate the new Hadlow College's efforts on providing education rather than adult social care and to pull back from additional aspects that the College was previously involved with, including the management of Princess Christian's Farm.

Princess Christian's Farm will remain open and run by North Kent College until the management is transferred to KASBAH.

Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

said: "I am delighted that KASBAH has been successful in its bid to manage Princess Christian's Farm. I know how much our residents supported the farm and I am confident that KASBAH will continue to build on the success of this service and help those who attend the facility to learn new skills and become more independent in these unique surroundings in the future."

Emma Carver, Chief Executive Officer of KASBAH said: "We are thrilled to be taking over Princess Christian's Farm and enhance all of the great work already in place, so please watch this space and if you would like to get involved in the Farm's future development, please do give us a call.



A MESSAGE FROM EMMA..



It is exciting times at KASBAH with our first significant development away from supported living in many years. We have been looking for the right opportunity to build meaningful work experience opportunities into a local activity or provision and Princess Christian's Farm is the perfect environment with an amazing staff team... and it is KASBAH's from 1 November 2021. If you would like to get involved give us a call.



Another key achievement this month was the outcome of KASBAH's first CQC inspection, we are very proud of the support we provide and are all thrilled to have been awarded a 'Good' within the CQC framework.

Take care and hope to see you soon

We Say Goodbye to a KASBAH Friend

Many of us were supported By Sue, one of KASBAH's first field workers, she was passionate about making a difference and she certainly did at KASBAH.

Did you know, when Sue was in the Chorleywood Amateur Dramatic Society, her claim to fame was that when starring as Queen Victoria, she wore the actual Queens wedding dress... and Sue worked in MI5. Yes MI5. She said that she was just admin, but it was during the Cambridge spy ring of Philby, Maclean, Burgess and Blunt? So, imagine the headline. 'Mrs Weed catches Cambridge Spies'.

Sue soon after moved to Malaysia with her family, she was not content exploring Malaysia, Sue wanted to contribute. She set up a nursery in the area she lived in. You can imagine her teaching kids to swim whilst talkingnon-stop.

Back in the UK, Sue and her husband found 'The Paddocks', where Sue made a beautiful home for 51 years. They immediately started to extend the Paddocks and Sue was happily mixing cement, doing the hod carrying, painting and decorating. Sue had such incredible energy and was a real doer. She also started to create the beginnings of what was to become her pride and joy....the garden.

With the kids packed off to school and the house beginning to feel like a home, Sue decided to start a career working for the Citizens Advice Bureau. This was a

challenging job as she had to know about mental health welfare, disablement advice and debt support. Sue worked for the CAB for 15 years, but like all great leaders she knew that it was time for change and so she moved on. She then became a field worker with KASBAH. She threw herself into the work, driving all over Kent helping parents through incredibly difficult times. Her proudest achievement was to set up KASBAH's first Independent Living Project – Seabrooke House, a place where young disabled people are upskilled and supported to achieve greater independence. Thank you Sue and farewell x



Outreach

The Outreach team have had such an amazing few months, with everyone getting their own 1-1 time to do activities of their choice. We have loved going back out into the community since the Covid-19 restrictions lifted. Fiona had 1-1 support to go to Brighton and saw her sister and nephews, it was lovely for them all to catch up as they hadn't seen each other for three years. Mark had a 1-1 trip to Newcastle where he visited The Living Museum, the Angel of the North and Lindisfarne Island. He had an amazing time learning about the history of Newcastle. In September the whole Outreach team went for a glamping getaway in the Ilse of Wight at Windmill Campersite. The site had so many fun and quirky things for us to see and had something for everyone. We are now all preparing and looking forward to Christmas this year.



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Gingerbread House

At Gingerbread House everyone has helped to decide on new furniture and décor for the house! We got a new sofa, new canvas pictures for the walls and even painted the front room a lovely red colour! Everyone got involved in painting the table for the garden as well! We have still been enjoying our boxing, basketball and football sessions and have enjoyed loads more things outdoors since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. We went to Southend aquarium, pumpkin picking, arcades and even went on a boat trip into London.

We celebrated a birthday here at Gingerbread House, Sophie turned 23 and much fun was had by all when we played traditional party games! Then later went out for a birthday meal at Pizza Express with everyone from Gingerbread and Shortbread.



Maddison House

Maddison House have had many great adventures recently, we had an evening trip to the seaside where we went for a walk, had fish and chips and played in the arcades. It was a lovely evening and the sun shone! Jake celebrated his 30th birthday with a big party that everyone was invited to. It was lots of fun and helped create many new happy memories.

We have been trying to enjoy lots of 1-1 time with staff. Tom enjoyed a trip to meet the famous snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan, Natalie enjoyed a trip to Southend Pleasure Beach and Alex enjoyed a dog walk in the woods these were just a few of the visits everyone had.

We have been continuing with our football, basketball and boxing and have now added table tennis into the mix. We have recently joined Seabrooke House too, for an evening of prize bingo! As we write this we are preparing to go on a trip to Butlins for Halloween. Everyone has bought their costumes and are very excited! We can't wait to tell you all about it!



Shortbread House

Georgina has now moved into Shortbread House and is settling in really well, she feels very at home with us. She celebrated her birthday recently and had a great time singing karaoke, opening presents and enjoying lots of cake with her family and everyone at Shortbread and Gingerbread!

Katy recently went on a second holiday to Leysdown and really enjoyed herself. She went swimming, played on the arcade machines, went trampolining and to the beach and loved dancing and singing on stage, playing the interactive family games that the holiday park had to offer. She even got to meet Loopy The Bunny and his friends throughout the week!

Katie has been getting out more and trying new social activities with everyone on Fridays. Katie is now able to attend her day services and get out and see her friends! She celebrated her birthday with us back in September and had a girly night away at Premier Inn in Rochester. She went for a birthday meal at Frankie and Bennie's where the staff sang happy birthday to her!



Rochester Road

We have returned to a new normal! Our service users have started returning to their clubs. Abigail and Mathew have returned to the farm at Northfleet School for Girls. Karen has returned to Peppercorns twice a week. Mathew has returned to his club at Spadeworks twice a week.

Thomas has been working with his Aunty at her local church doing bits and bobs to help out

Nicola has also been attending her club at Haig Gardens twice a week. They have taken her to the Cyclo Park and Woodville Halls.

All trainees at Rochester Road have been enjoying many exciting days out as part of our Wednesday social skills day. We have recently visited London Zoo and Eagle Heights. A favourite was a river cruise on the Thames as we went on the London Eye & enjoyed a day at the Sealife Centre and Shrek's Adventure. Our days indoors have been fun too with activities such as pumpkin carving and cooking a social meal.

We had an amazing Halloween party which we were all very excited about. Everyone dressed up in spooky costumes and ate lots of yummy food.

Staff and Service Users at Rochester Road would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Seabrooke House

Good news from Seabrooke! Jonathan has got a new job as a volunteer at the Ellenor Charity Shop and Chris has been offered a job at MenKind in Bluewater – Well done guys! This is a fantastic opportunity for both of you. Everyone has been enjoying the sports sessions, football, boxing, basketball and James has started a new archery club. He has taken part in Archery before and very much enjoys so thought he would try a new club. We all love a good night of fun so we recently went to Maddison House for a special night of bingo, which Ru won and a lovely Social Meal of Tacos. Yummy!

Seabrooke have very creative with or arts and crafts, we all enjoyed having a good go at pumpkin calving in October and have created many delicious baked treats .

For Halloween, Jonathan and Courtney went to Thorpe Park Fright Night all dressed up!! Johnathan thought it was so funny that

Courtney was so scared and screamed the whole time.

Seabrooke House celebrated Nigerian Independence Day.

We listened to Nigerian music and cooked traditional

Nigerian food, jollof rice, chicken and Puff Puff. (A

traditional deep-fried dumpling) Day service also joined us and everyone had a great day.



DIAL
NORTH WEST KENT

Run by disabled people,
For disabled people

DIAL provides free confidential information and advice on all aspects of disability to the residents of North West Kent (Dartford, Swanley and Gravesham), and to KASBAH service users and members across Kent.

Call the advice line to arrange and appointment

01474 536501

Available

Monday to Thursday 10am - 4 pm

Unfortunately we are not able to arrange face to face appointments due to the current situation with Coronavirus. Please ring for a telephone appointment.

dialnwk@kasbah.org.uk

Hattie Webb House

Over the last few months, we have had our raised bed built in the communal garden ready for plants etc. in the spring. We have also been discussing Christmas activities to do either together or on a 1-1 basis. These last few months have been very positive at Hattie Webb House, all the service users have been utilizing 1-1 time out in the community with staff support achieving individual goals and preferences. We have had the amazing pleasure to work with our new staff member, Bamini, she is such a lovely inspiring woman, and we are going to miss her dearly as she moves over to Seabrooke House. A big thank you to Ross's sister and the children at the school for their lovely plants for our sensory garden, this makes a nice touch and thoughtful too.

Day Respite Sessions: We are delighted with the new day respite sessions at Hattie Webb House, we have 2 service users that book and attend planned sessions regularly. Our aim is to focus on a person centered 1-1 approach with a wide range of activities that are chosen individually. We have been bowling, cooking meals from scratch, enjoying coffee and cake out and had a good catch up with plenty of laughs.



DIAL Advice Line

DIAL volunteers are continuing to offer support to our clients remotely. Working from home, they have had many recent successes, getting clients excellent results when assisting with claims such as Personal Independence Payments.

DIAL is able to assist you in answering many of your questions on various aspects of disabilities so please feel free to contact us if we are able to help in anyway. 01474 536501

Hello and welcome

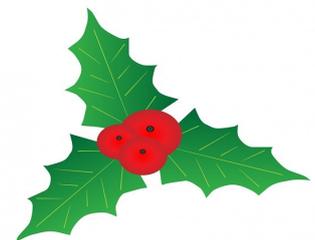
We would like to give a warm KASBAH welcome to Debbie who has joined Shortbread House, Emma who has joined the team at Gingerbread House and Kerris who has joined our bank staff and will be based at Gingerbread and Shortbread.

Good Luck to Sarah, Connor and Courtney as they all move into their new roles at Princess Christian's Farm and Shannon as she joins the office function as an administrator.

We would also like to wish Bamini good luck as she moves over to Seabrooke House full time from Rochester Road.



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
From Everyone at
KASBAH**



We are on Social Media



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

@kasbah_kent

Stay in touch...

Remember the staff at KASBAH are here
to support you.

We can be contacted at our main office at

27—27A East Kent Avenue, Northfleet, Kent. DA11 9HU

by phone on 01474 536501 or email officeadmin@kasbah.org.uk

If you have any suggestions or comments for up and coming newsletters, please get in touch

