



KASBAH Updates

Thank you to everyone that attended the AGM on 30 November 2023 at Ebbsfleet Football Club. Next year, we will hold the AGM at the farm, details will follow in due course.

In the last newsletter we shared the great news of being nominated as a Finalist in the Kent Charity Awards unfortunately we were not the overall winner but this was still a good opportunity to meet up with all the other fantastic charities working in Kent.

Are you looking for some present inspiration this Christmas? Our animal sponsorships at PCF allows you to offer that unique gift this Christmas. Please contact the office at PCF on pcfarm@kasbah.org.uk.

Don't forget to watch out for PCF events by following the farm on FaceBook or by visiting their page on our website, thank you!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at KASBAH!



KASBAH Charity Shop

Did you know that KASBAH have our own charity shop? For present ideas and year round bargains, please do come and visit our Charity Shop at 6 The Hive, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 9DE. The shop is open on Monday mornings, Thursday & Fridays 10am-2pm (during term time) and Saturdays. We are always looking for donations of good quality items, which can be dropped off via the office during normal office



hours. The shop is run by a mix of volunteers and KASBAH staff and service users from the houses. We are also very pleased to be able to support work placements for students from Link 19 College and their staff during term time. They are a great asset to the shop and we like working in partnership with the College.

MESSAGE FROM EMMA.....

Hi Everyone

I hope you are keeping warm and dry.

We are all working on our Christmas preparations and will be holding a Christmas market with a Santa's grotto on Sunday 17th December with many other activities on the day. We have plans to visit the panto at EM Forster Theatre in Tonbridge on 13 December, if you would like to join us do call the office as tickets are going quickly. We are proud to be the theatre's Charity of the Year this year.

If we can help or you just need a friendly person to speak to, do call us we are here to help.

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Festive Wishes

Emma

CEO KASBAH



HELLO AND GOODBYE

We would like to give a warm welcome to Scott C and Helen C who have joined the team at Shortbread House and to Shannon W who has joined the Outreach Team and will also support the houses.

We have very sadly said goodbye to Dawn Varley after 20 years of working at KASBAH.

Dawn started at

Seabrooke House and

then helped set up Hattie Webb House, working there for many years as well as the other KASBAH houses. We all wish Dawn the very best for the future. We will miss her.



COST OF LIVING PAYMENT

A second **cost of living payment** of £300 is being made between 31 October and 19 November 2023. This payment from DWP supports eligible people on means-tested benefits, such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, or tax credits. Eligible pensioner households will also receive a further £300 payment later this year as an addition to the Winter Fuel Payment. If you are eligible, the payment will be sent out automatically and directly to you, meaning you do not need to apply, contact the Government, or take any action to receive it.

Last year's Government Energy Bills Support Scheme will not be continued this winter so please be aware that you will not be getting that help towards your energy bills .

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

In Gingerbread House we have enjoyed all things festive. From celebrating Halloween to decorating for Christmas. Pumpkin picking was a great success, everyone got stuck in with carving their pumpkins. All are excited to go to the panto with the farm this year! We have been busy baking and singing Christmas songs in preparation for the festive season ahead. We have been to winter wonderland at Bluewater to start off our Christmas celebrations. We are going to be going to see Snow White in the Woodville Halls too... He's behind you!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a lovely New Year !



FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

As we reach the end of the year, we would like to give thanks to the many individuals and organisations that support KASBAH and have given their time and effort through supporting our services and/or raising funds for the organisation.

We would like to thank the Northfleet & Ebbsfleet Lions who have been a long time supporter of KASBAH and very kindly made a donation to Seabrooke House to enable them to purchase the interior items needed for their new summer house which they themselves had fundraised for.

Also the Cameron McKenna Foundation for their ongoing support.

We were also extremely grateful to receive a fantastic donation of £2550

raised by David Swain who ran the Berlin Marathon in September 2023. The money was donated to KASBAH in memory of one of our members, Hayley Macdonald who passed away in 2003.

Thank you to her sister Natalie for nominating KASBAH and to David for his amazing achievement.



SHORTBREAD HOUSE

Shortbread House had a great time enjoying lots of Halloween activities including pumpkin carving which they did with Gingerbread House and were also joined by Mark from the Outreach team.

Katy has been working hard at Princess Christian's Farm to look after one of her favourite animals, the rabbits. Katy did a fantastic job cleaning them out and preparing a fresh cosy bed for them.

Georgina helped with the garden tidy up, look at the size of this squash!



MADDISON HOUSE

We have had a very busy time at Maddison House coming into Autumn. We celebrated our 10th birthday! We had a big party, where we invited all our families and friends. We had games, food and of course party music. We would also like to say a big thank you to the farm who helped make this happen by giving our back garden a make-over, making it welcoming for guests. It looks absolutely beautiful. They spent 2 whole days here hacking, weeding and planting. We appreciate this a lot.

We also have some congratulations in order at Maddison House after Josh and Emily got engaged. The ring is very beautiful, and they are looking forward to starting two plan for the big day. Natalie also got a Christmas job in Card Factory after a successful trip to Bluewater job fair! Well done everybody!

We are now starting to prepare for Christmas and New Year, we will be at The Leather Bottle in Northfleet for New Years Eve if anyone else wants to attend. Tickets are £10 and are available from now. It is always a good party with lovely food, music and friends.



ROCHESTER ROAD

Over the past few months, everyone at Rochester Road has been out and about in the community, they have participated in Wednesday social skills where they have gone to the Cyclo Park, to crazy golf over in Lakeside and ate out at the local restaurants. We have had themed in-house days such as Made in Italy (Italian foods), a super hero day where we got to make food of our own choice. We also had the Lush Work shop come and visit the house and made bath bombs, the house smelled very good afterwards!

At Halloween we all attended separate parties at our clubs and enjoyed the festivities with lots of lovely treats.

All the service users participated in the spooky event at the Princess Christian Farm and had a wonderful time with everyone there.



Over the following weeks we will be getting the house ready to put up our Christmas tree and make it very festive.

We all hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year and see you all in the coming months .

OUTREACH SERVICES

Whilst there was still some autumn sun, Outreach had a great couple of days out with one group exploring Dartford's history and then a walk in the park whilst another group enjoyed a day out to Teapot Island.

Outreach have continued to enjoy many social activities and had a great time bowling.

Everyone loves having a go and seeing who can get a strike!

We are moving towards smaller groups to cater for everyone's

choices. They have visited Fenn Bell Inn, bowling and a history visit in Rochester.



HATTIE WEBB HOUSE

Hattie Webb House said goodbye to Dawn this month. We wish her the best of luck for her future, and she will be very much missed. We thank her for all the support she has given over the years, having been at HWH from when it opened and with KASBAH for over 20 years in total!

Ashley has been trialling the Senior role at HWH and we have been planning some Christmas activities. We recently had a craft session in which we all became creative with canvases.



We are hoping to make this a monthly thing and try some new activities.

We are also planning a trip to Rochester Christmas market for a hot drink and Christmas shopping, with some cheeky treats for ourselves.



SEABROOKE HOUSE

We have had a very busy month at Seabrooke House, we have celebrated Halloween with a quiz night and hotdogs, everyone came in fancy dress and it was a fantastic night. Bamini celebrated her 60TH birthday with us and cooked everyone a delicious Sri Lankan meal, Sharon made a beautiful chocolate and caramel cake.

Wednesday Day service have been working hard, they made remembrance lanterns for Remembrance Day whilst listening to old war songs and cooking toad in the hole. Friday Day service enjoyed a day at the cinema watching the new Hunger Games and enjoyed some lunch in the food court at Bluewater.

We are now getting ready for Christmas and planning our Christmas dinner together.



PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S FARM

Never a dull moment at the farm, as show season comes to an end, farm staff and attendees have been working incredibly hard to prepare for our next open day, this time it was Halloween. This was great fun, staff got to dress in Halloween costumes and both Emma and Liz agreed to be great sports and go in the stocks where they were drenched with wet sponges. For a good cause, hey ladies?

We are all looking forward to opening again at Christmas when Father Christmas will be paying us a visit.

Our sensory room is open and is available for booking. The new room has water features, soft play and lots to touch see and smell objects. It also has some calming rocking chairs and mood lighting which as everyone will tell you, can be very relaxing.

Whilst Liz is still the Farm Manager, Kathryn has been promoted to Farm Coordinator to assist her with daily running of the farm. Kathryn has taken to the job like a duck on the farm to water. She had been learning her new role whilst still being the lead in horticulture. Chloe R has come back after her maternity leave and Lia has moved on to study full time. We would all like to wish everyone the best of luck in their new paths.

Mid-October saw a surprise birth here for us at the farm as we were alerted to baby meerkats. We have always been under the impression that our meerkats were all boys as we were told that when we adopted them, however three babies were born over one weekend and although mum was doing her best, we unfortunately lost two of them. It was then decided that we would hand rear the 3rd to give it the best chance of survival. This is never an easy decision as usually mum would know best but staff had been caring for the baby round the clock, taking turns with night feeding every hour and a half. Although despite our best efforts, we are sad to report that Fidget sadly did not survive.

Everyone at Princess Christian's Farm would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



All



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

7 The Hive, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 9DE

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

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

