

Welcome to our new format Newsletter for 2025! As we stated in the last newsletter there will be a greater focus on issues regarding disability and supporting the wider membership. We will still keep you informed about the KASBAH Supported Living projects and the activities at Princess Christian's Farm but they will be covered in more detail in their own service user led newsletters.

We would also appreciate your feedback on this new style content, thank you!

## KASBAH Membership Renewal 2025-26

It's that time of the year again, when we ask for your membership renewal. Please fill out the form inside the envelope and return back to us as soon as you can.

If you would like to send the form back by post then our KASBAH Freepost address is; KASBAH Business Response, RTJU-TGUZ-AJUE, Gravesend, DA11 9DE.

Alternatively if you would like to send it via email then please email your completed membership form to [admin@kasbah.org.uk](mailto:admin@kasbah.org.uk).

Please do not worry if you are unable to pay the £6.00 membership fee. Your support and a donation, however much it may be, would be gratefully received.

**\*\*All completed membership forms that are returned to the office by post or email by 14 April 2025 will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher\*\* Good Luck!**



## CEO Welcome – Emma Carver

Welcome to this edition of the KASBAH News, remember we are only a phone call away and if you would like to contribute articles and share topics of interest for the newsletter do contact the office on 01474 536051 or email: [admin@kasbah.org.uk](mailto:admin@kasbah.org.uk)

## Did you know....

Now you can contact the emergency services (999) via text message? Text the word "register" to 999 then click yes to confirm you want to use the service.

In any situation where you are unable to call 999, text 999 with your name, location, what has happened and what service is required. An operator from that service will assist you via text and send ambulance/police/fire to you.

## KASBAH Advice Service — Carly Gadd

### PIP

The Advice Line has been made aware from clients that there is a delay on review decisions coming back. The DWP are working through the backlog of forms, meanwhile you will receive your payments as normal. No need to worry about the process taking longer.

### Migration Notices

People getting legacy benefits are having the claims closed and are being invited to make a new claim for Universal Credit. This is called managed migration.

Legacy benefits are Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit for working-age people, income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Income Support.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have been sending Migration Notices to people getting the legacy benefits listed above.

By the end of 2024, all Tax Credit claimants will have received a Migration Notice. Tax Credits will finish on the 5 April 2025 and will not be paid after this date. People who get ESA only, or ESA with housing benefit have already started to receive their Migration Notices, and the DWP will continue to send them throughout 2025. All Migration Notices will be sent by the end of December 2025 and legacy benefits will end on 31 March 2026.

Look out for a letter called a 'Universal Credit Migration Notice' from the DWP. This notice letter is important as it will tell you that your existing benefits are stopping, and you need to make a claim for Universal Credit. It will also tell you what you need to do and by when.

You might get a leaflet telling you to get ready for Universal Credit – if the letter you get doesn't have a deadline on it, it isn't your migration notice. Wait until you get a proper migration notice.

Information taken from <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>

Should you need any information/advice or assistance to complete your Migration Notice, please contact Carly at the Office on 01474 536501 or [cgadd@kasbah.org.uk](mailto:cgadd@kasbah.org.uk).

We hold in person or telephone appointments (booking necessary) at the Hive on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



**Join today**

**The new discount site for the disabled community**

We help you offset the cost of living with a disability by bringing you exclusive discounts for products and services.

Scan me with your camera

**purpl**

@purpldiscounts

Carly has found this new company called Purpl Discounts, they offer those with disabilities discounts and discount codes to use on many different websites.

**<https://www.purpldiscounts.com>**

*Browse disabled discounts promo and voucher codes. Money saving guides, inspiring real life stories and a community of people like you.*

Carly has put together a guide on how to apply/join, if you would like this sent to you, please email Carly on [cgadd@kasbah.org.uk](mailto:cgadd@kasbah.org.uk)

## KASBAH Supported Living Projects

All our houses love to cook, learning new skills, tasting different types of food, working together and sitting down with their friends to enjoy what they have made. This is an important aspect of our life skills training. Seabrooke House and Maddison House teamed up together to have a tasting session which included Ostrich steak, Boar sausages, Venison meatballs, smoked kippers, kalelettes and Sharon fruit amongst other things! At Gingerbread House, they made sausage rolls and Shortbread House prepared a Burns Night Feast. Nicola at Rochester Road cooked a delicious chicken curry.

As the weather improves and the days get lighter, we look forward to seeing what activities the houses do in the coming months.



## Dates for your Diary 2025

### Princess Christian's Farm

**6th April 2025** Lambing Day

**8th June 2025** Open Farm Sunday

For further information and to book tickets:

<https://princesschristiansfarm.org.uk/buy-tickets/>



**30 September 2025**—AGM to be held at Ebbsfleet United Football Club.

## Memories from a Member

“Your baby has a hole in her back.” These were the first words that registered after birth of our first baby. She was placed in my arms and the next thing I knew was that she was taken by ambulance to Sydenham Children’s Hospital for an operation on her back. I was in Fant Lane Maternity Hospital in Maidstone – a GP led maternity unit. The Sister explained to me about Hydrocephalus and the need for a shunt. Amazingly I knew about this as a friend’s son had needed one for a different reason. I couldn’t believe that a newborn baby could survive an operation and resigned myself to a loss. It was almost harder to let myself dare to hope that she would survive. My husband just seemed to block all of this out, finding it hard to inform family and friends of the truth.

The next memory is of almost being alone in the prenatal ward and it wasn’t long before I was transferred to the other ward for mothers, although the babies were kept in a separate part. My GP said he wouldn’t discharge me until the statutory ten days were up and he didn’t want me charging up and down to London quite so soon.

Over the 6 weeks before I brought her home, Kerry had several more operations. I remember phoning the ward one day and a nurse held out her phone. “Can’t you hear how hungry she is?” In fact to feed her hunger she was given diluted Carnation milk. Her surgeon, Duncan Forrest was wonderful with his patients and cared for her throughout her years at Sydenham. Several more operations were needed over the years including dealing with a shunt infection.

**E Doswell**

## Access Card

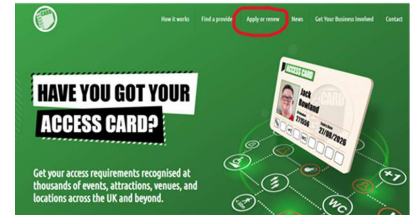
### What is the Access Card?

The physical card acts as a photo ID that can be used to easily communicate your access requirements to events and venues, so that the venues can provide accessibility to the needs of their visitors.

It also works online with other platforms like ticketing systems, to unlock the access facilities you need.

The card shows a photo ID and translates a persons disability or impairment into symbols, effectively highlighting the barriers they face and the reasonable adjustments they might need.

The Access Card app provides you with a personalised directory of venues, with first-class accessibility information to help you plan your trips.



For further information and to apply online:

<https://www.accesscard.online/>

### Affordable Wheelchair & Mobility Aid Hire



Wheeleasy Mobility is a non profit short term hire service in Maidstone. We are run by volunteers that have experience and knowledge of issuing equipment that will fit an individual's needs. We offer equipment on a weekly hire basis manual wheelchairs and toileting aids. In addition we will have a selection of preloved equipment to purchase which thanks to the public donating to us, we are able to pass on for those requiring a more permanent solution.

For further information: <https://wemobility.co.uk/> or call 07365 891388

#### 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](mailto:admin@kasbah.org.uk)

If you have any suggestions or comments for up and coming newsletters, please get in touch newsletters, please do let us know.



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