

PATHWAY NEWS

The Lodge Trust Monthly Newsletter

June 2017

This month we marked Learning Disability Week. Mencap's focus for this year's event was to raise awareness of the benefits of employing people with a learning disability. Only 20% of adults with a mild or moderate learning disability are employed. We know that our Service Users enjoy having meaningful work and thrive in a working environment; sadly not everyone is given this opportunity. During the week our Service Users were certainly shining examples to our community of how dedicated, hard-working, and skilful people with learning disabilities can be (see more inside). They made it into the *Melton Times*, so hopefully many more people will enjoy reading about the projects and be inspired by them. We also participated in the national Care Home Open Day, with emphasis on the importance of connecting with local communities.



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Learning Disability Awareness Week

If any of you follow us on Facebook, you may have seen the great things we got up to during this year's Learning Disability Awareness Week.

We started on the Friday before the week with an open day. We had one of our houses open, the workshops, and the hall with an art exhibition. The artwork on display was fantastic, as you can see.

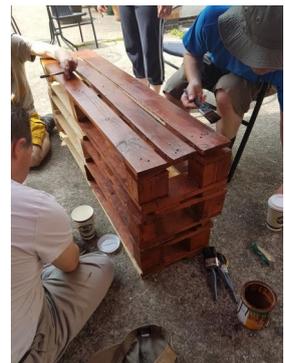


We then made the Learning Disability Awareness Week our community action week and a team of residents spent three days out



in the community helping at local projects.

On Monday they were at a local coffee shop sanding and painting some benches for them. It was a very hot day, but they worked really hard and really enjoyed seeing the end



result of their hard work. The coffee shop owners were so grateful for their help.

On Wednesday they helped at a local church drop-in centre. They learnt about the people that the centre supports and the kind of things they offer them, from hot meals to clothes and food parcels.



They then helped to sort through all the donated bags of clothes and organise them in the clothing area of the centre ready for people to take. This was a great way to learn about people within our community who need our help and to show God's love in a practical way.

Thursday we were at a local community allotment. This was the favourite place of the week for most of the group. They helped to move some top soil to fill some new raised beds in the polytunnel, they helped plant some vegetables and did some tidying and weeding. There is lots more to do at this allotment as it is fairly new. They were overwhelmed by the help we gave them and some of the group enjoyed it so much, I think we may be going back here again soon. After we left the allotment, we went back to the café to finish off the last couple of benches that we didn't have time to finish on Monday; thankfully it was a lot cooler by then!



Saturday ended our exciting week with a Learning Disability Awareness Day at Melton Country Park. This was an event that we organised with Melton Mencap, Birch Wood School and Melton Sport & Health Alliance. It was a fantastic day. The weather was good, there were lots of free fun activities including a sensory quiz, animals to pet, dog agility with the Dogs Trust, massages and facials, Strider bikes, crafts and sports and even Zumba to have a go at. There was face painting, a coconut shy, a cake stall and a BBQ. It was a real success. The event was not designed to make us money, although we did get enough money to cover our costs plus a bit more to put towards the next joint event we run in our local community. The event was designed to bring the community together to celebrate our differences and showcase the services and skills on offer. Many local services came to support the day and many of the learning disability community came out and enjoyed it; it was really wonderful to see.



Special Olympics Update

Thanks to your generous support, we have raised £1,322 of our £1,500 target. We are so close to having enough to send Carolyn and Richard to compete. If you are able to help us with the last bit we need, then please follow the link on our website or send us a cheque. Thank you.

Compassion Day

On Saturday 3rd June, Matt, Richard W, Richard B, Jonathan and William went to Nottingham to a Compassion Supporters Day.

As you may know, Richard W started to sponsor a child through Compassion and now many of The Lodge Trust staff and residents club together to support John Rey Sebido from the Philippines.

On Saturday we heard about the work of Compassion around the world, what they do and how much of a difference sponsorship can make to a child's life.

We heard the personal testimony of a man named Tossy (white shirt, front centre in photo). He grew up in the slums and he told about how his life has changed and how he found Jesus through a sponsor via Compassion. Nearly all of us there said that his testimony was the best, as it was so powerful and gave much greater depth to the sponsorship programme. I think we came away encouraged and reminded of why it is that we, as an organization, support John Rey Sebido through Compassion.



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at www.lodgetrust.org.uk

Or drop in to our café and shop on site which is open Monday to Saturday 8:30am — 4:30pm

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter



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