

Kith & Kids



**Spring
2013**



in this issue

- Spring Project and Residential
- London Marathon 2013
- Ride London 100
- Believe it!
- Dates for your diary

Director's notes

Welcome to our spring Readabout, which has great reports and photos of last term's activities and also mentions upcoming events. It shows that we continue with a busy schedule of activities even though we are having to deal with some serious financial challenges.

The latter means that we will be losing three members of staff, which saddens us all. We are a close-knit staff team – we work well together, complement each other, like each other and have worked together for many years. Therefore having to say goodbye to Helen Heath, Danielle Taylor, and Helen Robertson is heartbreaking. We owe all three a great deal of thanks for all their hard work and their unwavering commitment to Kith & Kids and we wish them well in any new ventures they will undertake.

In order to minimise the impact on our services, Kith & Kids is going through restructuring. During the coming months we will endeavour to find a new balance in our service delivery; scaling back some activities, maintaining others as planned and developing new ways of delivering some our activities. Of course we will keep everyone informed of the developments.

Marjolein

Bits and bobs...

Robin and Sarina's Wedding Party!

We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all Kith & Kids families for all your kind thoughts and wishes in celebrating our marriage. We were overwhelmed by both your great generosity (we've come into the 21st Century with a new flat-screen TV), and the wonderful atmosphere at the party at the beginning of March. What better representation of the true spirit of Kith & Kids?

Robin and Sarina



The Supporting Kith & Kids Shop has moved to...

429-431 High Road, N17 6QH (Tel: 02088809034)
223-225 High Road, EN3 4DX (Tel: 0208 805 6262)
121a Waltham Cross High Street (Tel: 01992620407)

The shop needs your help to keep on supporting Kith & Kids. Over the past few years they have contributed a consistent £1200 a month to our activities, which has proved to be a significant help. They are desperate for donations (clothes, bric-a-brac, furniture etc) and please do help us spread the word.

Contact the above numbers to donate!

Congratulations!

In recognition of her work as an activist, Jean Willson OBE has received the Islington Freedom of the Borough. Her name will be engraved on the town hall and she'll even get to graze her sheep on the green. Obviously she's particularly delighted with the latter piece of news!

Respite Weekends

Since I last wrote to you all we have had a couple more Respite Weekends, returning to venues that we have used before. At the end of March we went to Woodrow High House up in Amersham, which was the site of our first ever weekend, so a lovely opportunity for the members, volunteers and myself to reflect on what a fantastic first year the group have had with this new (now not so new!) project. I have really noticed the development in the participants getting more and more comfortable with the format and trying new activities, and developing more flexibility. What's been great for me to see is, as the weekends become more familiar, group members are able to express more and more their thoughts and feelings as to how they would like the weekends to run. We had our first Saturday night outing to the pub in a local village which was a really nice alternative to our more traditional camp fire, due to very snowy weather. It was lovely to be out and about in the local area and out of London for a weekend! I've included a great photo of Bradley and one of his volunteers Gemma, getting ready to head outside to fire off our home made rockets!



On a sad note you will be aware that I am leaving Kith & Kids and March was my last weekend. It has been one of my proudest achievements at Kith & Kids, having worked from development stage to provision of this project, and I will miss it hugely. I leave it in the more than capable hands of my colleague and friend Rich Pickup, who I am sure will work hard to continue the success of this fantastic and so necessary project.



Thank you to all of the participants, families and volunteers for making these weekends possible. They have been an absolute pleasure.

Helen Robertson

Events for families:

D's Day (2nd June, Coram's Fields)

The annual inclusive play day in memory of Doreen Collins, co-founder of Kith & Kids, is happening again on 2nd June from 1-4.30pm. There will be the climbing wall, drumming, face painting and inclusive games! All are invited so please do come along and let others know!

Themed Meeting: Exploring different living situations (Sunday 30th June, The Irish Centre)

Parents will be sharing their experiences with us about the different settings their son or daughters live in. A great opportunity to find out about the different outlets which are available and possible. Contact Carol if you want to book in on carol@kithandkids.org.uk or 0208 801 7432.

Family Day (July 13th at Treehouse School)

Come along to our annual Family Day where we invite our families to lots of fun activities (and nibbles). We are excited to make use of the Treehouse facilities and look forward to seeing you there. Please let us know if you are planning on coming.

Fundraising news

Thanks to all those who have responded to our requests for help! We've had all sorts of events going on and it's been really heartening to know that you are thinking of new ways to raise money for our activities. Having said that, we still have a long way to go - so please do get involved in whatever way you can.

Thanks to...

Cake versus Cookies...

In the last two months we have three wonderful bake sales. So thanks to Daphne Walton, who got students at Queenswood School baking and hosting decorating competitions (raising £104.44); Uma Chiplunkar who held one at her workplace (£451.50); and to Nisha Halai, who decided cakes weren't her thing so launched the Kith & Kids Cookie Campaign (632.50) for Easter! In total they raised £1188.44 and we know there's still some donations coming in. It just goes to show how you can help Kith & Kids by eating treats!



This is an ongoing fundraiser so if you think you can raise some money by baking please get in touch with Maithi and she'll send you a pack!

Chosen Charity!

We have been chosen by Montpelier Group as their charity for the next two years. This is fantastic news and they already have lots of exciting ideas on how to raise money for us and help Kith & Kids as much as possible. Thanks so much to George Attipoe, a volunteer, who nominated and campaigned hard for us to get chosen!

ASDA Edmonton and Waitrose Holloway chose us as one of their charities, and they have donated £200 and £453 respectively. ASDA came into our Spring Project on the final day and really loved the atmosphere of Kith & Kids.



Something in the attic - the pop-art gallery which donates 10% of its profits to us ran another event called Jungle Fever. Thanks to Cedric and Lynnne Zulu the artist for all the hard work and creativity and for raising £128 for us.

Happy 50th to John Morrissey who forsook presents and asked for donations instead! Raising over £500 he also had a wonderful party!

Helen Styles, who was all ready to shave her head but in the end was sponsored £300 by her boss not to do it! The biggest amount raised by not doing anything (and she was sponsored an extra £40!)

You are never too young to help raise money! Ben's niece came out to Euston Station to help the Self Advocacy Group raise money for their Residential Project. In total they collected a whopping £476.89!!



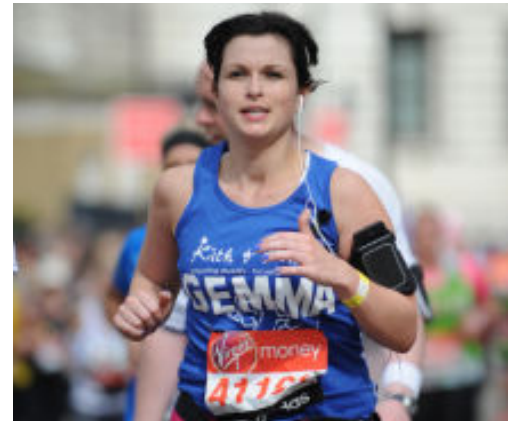
London Marathon 2013

A huge congratulations to all 25 runners who completed the London Marathon on Sunday. And what a day it was! Despite forecasts that it would be another cloudy day, the sun shone for the 36,000 runners who set off from Blackheath.

Watching the runners pound the streets of London is a truly inspirational and emotional experience, and we love being part of it. Running 26.2 miles is no mean feat, nor is collectively raising over £31,000 which is how much we have received from our team. There are still bits of sponsorship to come in and we hope to reach the £35,000 mark! We'll keep you updated. For now – a huge round of an applause for:

Nick, Lawrence, Emily, Tom, Gemma, Mat, Vanessa, Ben, Adam, Martin, Stuart Cooling, Jonathan, Jessica, India, Loraine, Chris, Selina, Rula, Mark, Kirk, Danny, Abena, Anna and Stuart Crook!

We also want to say thanks to Pizza Express Haymarket, who once again hosted our marathon after-party with over 70 runners, family and friends coming along creating a wonderfully exuberant atmosphere! Plus to our two wonderful masseurs, Ellie and Harmony who were a much needed source of relief for our weary runners!



Upcoming events ★ how you can get involved

Ride London

Just after the London Marathon, you may be inspired to take part in something just as challenging - thankfully we've got the perfect event for you. This 100K cycle through London is organised by the same people and it's a first. We've got guaranteed spaces so please contact any keen cyclists you know. Maithi will send you a template email to convince them! Quick though as the deadline is fast approaching...

Superhero Run

There's still time to sign up for this fantastically fun run which is happening on 19th May at Regent's Park! You get to choose whether you'll face 5K or 10K. Free superhero suit included - don't miss out!



Spring Social Development Project



The Kith & Kids Spring Project took place from Saturday 6th - 10th April. Despite wintry conditions, we went for an exotic jungle theme! Once again we had a full host of activities for everyone to get stuck into: Richard's art workshops were adventurous, creative and wacky; in Bria's drama sessions, super Andrew was turned into a superhero and caterpillars were transformed into butterflies; Roshi's workshops created lots of wonderful music with a jungle themed twist; Lizzie got everyone dancing like divas; and in swimming everyone was able to splash and bounce around pretending to be sharks and crocodiles. With all this action Debby's massage sessions were much needed and enjoyed!



On the second day Purple Lane was transformed into a catwalk, where everyone strutted their stuff in costumes and outfits that they had created together. Oliver dressed up like a prince and had the crowd bowing down to him as he passed them, Janet looked magnificent in some purple headwear and Aime went for a David Bowie themed outfit. Special mention must also go to Caroline for filming the show and Natasha for stealing the show with a dazzling strut down the catwalk. A first for the project was a visit from some furry and scaly friends, including giant snails, a skunk, a guinea pig and a slimy snake. It was wonderful to see everyone engaged especially as they got the chance to touch a range of different animals!



On the final day we had a jungle themed carnival in Purple Lane with stalls including giraffe table tennis, 'feed the human', skittles, hop scotch, bubble making and music and dancing! This was followed by an animal procession led by the ginormous Kith & Kids giraffe in the theatre to open the final day show. The show included some melodious singing from Jessica C, signing in makaton from Chrissie and Caroline, rhythmic drumming from Deo and a brilliant Kith & Kids song and cup dance from Charlotte and her volunteers. The show was also a chance for the youth group to create a display about their Sunday expedition to various parts of Tottenham. Arjun talked about his trip to Sainsbury's to buy some pencil sharpeners, Aidan told us about his adventure to Bruce Castle and George mentioned his trip to the Markfield Centre. Spring theme certificates, expertly designed by Jess Rogers, were handed out, followed by the traditional 'Hokey Cokey' and suddenly it was time for everyone to say goodbye.



A big thank you goes to the parents and families that helped out in the kitchen. Once again volunteers, and members were really well fed and provided everyone with some much needed energy! Thank you to our fantastic and energetic volunteers, both old and new! They had to work extra hard on this project as we were a bit low in numbers. This means we really need help to recruit new volunteers for the summer project! So please encourage your friends, family, partners, work colleagues and pen pals etc to get in touch with us!

Laurence

Residential Project

On the 8th April the Self Advocacy Group set off by train to Cudham Environmental Activities Centre in Kent for their three day Residential Project. Twenty people strong, the group was excited (despite the rainy weather) to go back to the centre where they had been in January. The theme of the residential was living independently and so there were a number of sessions revolving around this topic such as discussing what type of place they would like to live, in what kind of area, with who and so on.

A hit of the residential was a Kith & Kids mash-up of wink murder and a murder mystery. Throughout the whole residential there was an assigned murderer and the group had to use their Sherlock senses to detect who it was before everyone was killed. The murderer had a knife (novelty of course, although extremely convincing!) and sneaked up on people whilst wanted posters appeared around the centre! The suspense was thrilling and is definitely an activity that will be revisited!

All of the group also ran their own sessions which included: candle-making, how to manage stress, Modroc, hangman, egg olympics, music bingo, problem solving games and teambuilding games. It was the Modroc which won the best session award from the group.

Evenings were filled with delicious dinners (pasta and thai curries galore) as well as a campfire, trip to the local pub and watching an old favourite - Toy Story 2.

Overall it was a lovely few days where the group were generally very comfortable with each other and had a good time. They even met some badgers who were slightly reticent about socialising with the group although they did enjoy rifling through the rubbish! Everyone is looking forward to the next one in August in Whitwell Hall in Norfolk.



Beliebe it

On Thursday 7th March a group of extremely lucky Kith & Kids participants and volunteers got on the tube to the O2 to see...wait for it...JUSTIN BIEBER's BELIEVE concert! Screeeeeeeam!

One of our generous corporate supporters Barclays PLC, gave us exclusive access to their corporate box to enjoy one of the hottest shows in town this year. We arrived at the (super swish and very spacious) box early to enjoy food, popcorn, drinks and the amazing warm up acts (Carly Rae Jepson, Cody Simpson and Jaden Smith), and certainly warmed up our voices (and ear drums) with excited screams! After a very dramatic countdown, and even more screaming, Justin Bieber entered the stage flying down from the roof with huge angel wings. It was an amazing sight and the show didn't disappoint. This was definitely not an everyday experience and we'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to Barclays and our lovely host Nicola for giving us this opportunity.



And welcome to...

Laurence Woodcock who has joined us as our new projects intern. He has previously volunteered on camp and projects and run a marathon for us too! We are also very pleased to have Zoe Scabiolo who has just joined us as an ELSP intern and will be working with us Monday to Wednesday.

dates for your diary

Weekend Clubs: 5th May, 18th May (Outing), 15 June, 30 June (Performance)

D's Day - 2 June 2013, Coram's Fields

Superhero Fun Run (19 May) - A 5k or 10K run around Regent's Park!

Summer 2:1 Social Development Project (Date to be confirmed)

Ride London 100 (4 Aug) - A cycle challenge through London. Sign up now!