

Friends of Bede Newsletter

Bede House Association (reg. charity 303199, company limited by guarantee 420386)
351 Southwark Park Road, London SE16 2JW, www.bedehouse.org.uk

Summer 2016

Bede Starfish Domestic Violence Project Commended

One of the characteristics that makes Bede special is how flexible all our teams are in finding creative solutions to help those who rely on our services to get the help they need. We were therefore very proud to have this recognised by an email from the Detective Inspector of Walworth Police Station as part of a briefing for police, social workers and other professionals working to reduce domestic violence in Southwark. She writes:

"My personal thanks to Nicole from Bede House, who deserves to be commended for her commitment to victim care. Having been unable to get hold of her client Ms A, Nicole was so concerned that she went to Ms A's child's school at picking up time in the hope of finding her. When she did she found Ms A with a nasty black eye and a wound to her eyebrow which had been caused by her partner. Ms A has been in an abusive relationship with the suspect for 8 years and has never reported any incidents to the police. With support and persuasion from Nicole she eventually agreed to report this matter to police. Despite it being 6pm on a Friday, Nicole stayed and supported Ms A while she provided a detailed statement covering multiple assaults over a long period of time and a place in a refuge was arranged for her. This was a gold standard partnership investigation that shows it's not just the police that are fighting domestic abuse. Thanks to Nicole and her determination to keep her client safe."



Appeal from our Patrons – Could you Set Up a Standing Order to Support Bede's work regularly?



Sir Simon Hughes and Cllr Sunil Chopra (former Mayor of Southwark) write: We have both supported Bede's excellent work for many years, and so we were delighted to be asked to become more involved by becoming Patrons of Bede. Barry Albin is a difficult act to follow. As a Friend of Bede, we know that you are already familiar with the work Bede does in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community. Each of you will have your own reasons for why you believe that Bede is special and worthy of your support. For both of us, we have been drawn by the love and laughter that Bede seems to have in abundance.

Over our three years as Patrons we will be working with staff, volunteers and trustees to support the fundraising efforts and spread the word of Bede around the community and to potential supporters from all areas and walks of life. Funding is increasingly uncertain across the whole sector, and setting an annual budget gets harder each year because we cannot be sure of the funding Bede can rely on. This is where regular donations are invaluable – they provide the financial stability upon which Bede's activities can be planned.

One thing that has struck us is that, although many people make occasional donations to Bede, very few do so regularly. You know that what Bede does is worthwhile and effective, which is why you are already a Friend of Bede. Our request is that you consider making a regular donation – however small – so that Bede can plan and continue its work in the future.

Thank you for considering our request, and, if you already donate by Standing Order, a special thanks to you!

A New Centre for Bede – Further Progress!



You will remember that Southwark Council are planning to refurbish the Maydew tower block adjacent to Bede Centre, and to build us a new Centre in its basement and first floor so that our existing site can be redeveloped for housing. It is a very exciting opportunity, and we have worked with Southwark Council's architects, Haworth Tomkins, to design a suitable building. Apart from having a suitable new building, our key concerns are to agree a lease which we can afford and which secures the future of Bede. This is no easy task! Meanwhile, building works on Maydew have begun, and demolition of some of the podium around Bede Centre is scheduled for the autumn. We are encouraged by everyone's desire to see Bede thrive in a much improved location and, if all goes well, we could move to the new Centre for Bede in early 2019.

Trainee Youth Workers Graduate at Bede

Congratulations to Dylan Curtis and Sarah Ade who completed NVQ Level 2 qualifications in Youth Work through Bede's Training for Success programme. Matthew Allgood from funders United St Saviours, presented their certificates at a celebration in the Bede Youth Club in April.



Our busy summer programme is now well underway and Dylan has come back to help us as a volunteer.

News from Friends of Bede

Our four runners in the London Marathon, Maxine Cummins (*pictured*) Fern Millican, Robert Parrott and Chris Bowden, have raised an amazing £8,400 for Bede. Maxine is the sister of Gary Doran, who attended our Learning Disabilities Project for many years and sadly died in February, 2015. Thanks also to George Webber (*pictured*) and Matt Thomas who completed the Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100 mile challenge on July 31 and raised over £1,500 for Bede. Thanks to everyone who has supported them!



Big Local Works – Bede Plans to be a Partner in New Employment Project in the Blue



Local funder, United St Saviours, are negotiating a five year lease with Southwark Council on the former Lib Dem offices in 4 Market Square in the Blue to provide a base for Big Local South Bermondsey's initiative to stimulate employment and small scale enterprise in the neighbourhood. Big Local Works will connect employers, training and support services with local people who want to start their own business and/or get into work. Subject to satisfactory negotiations, Bede, which is the legal charity hosting the Big Local South Bermondsey initiative, will manage the premises once a licence is agreed with United St Saviours. Running costs will be covered by the Big Local South Bermondsey Partnership. Ann Clayton, our Community Engagement Manager, will oversee the day to day running of the project. There is a lot of interest already amongst a number of potential stakeholders, and it's hoped to have Big Local Works open in the autumn.

Bede's Rich History



Friend of Bede **Kevin Ireland** has published a book of photos from Bede's archive entitled "Bede House Association- The First 75 Years". Copies can be ordered from on-line publishers Blurb www.blurb.com

Thanks to Recent Donors!

Our thanks to Alan and Babette Sainsbury, Browne Jacobson LLP, BWI, The Capital Group, City Bridge Trust, Children in Need, Comic Relief, Donald Forrester Trust, First Protocol, The Funding Network, Gerald Palmer Eling Trust, Garfield Weston, Grosvenor, Henry Smith Charity, John Laing, Madano, Newcomen Collett Foundation, North Southwark Environment Trust, Oley Trust (and the Clare Bermondsey Trust, Clare College, Cambridge), United St Saviours, Winckworth Sherwood, Periscopix, St Olave's and St Saviour's Schools Foundation, Stella Coffee and Tea. Thanks also to Kevin Ireland for many of the photos in this newsletter. Despite further cuts to their budget, Southwark Council have continued to support Bede as best they can— our special thanks to all our colleagues there.

Also, a big "thank you" to the many individual supporters who make personal donations, large and small, to enable us to continue our work. Such donations are increasingly important to our future as state funding is cut more and more, and what remains is rolled up into big contracts which are won by big organisations. As a small charity, we make our money go a long way, and we keep our independence and flexibility to respond to people's needs as we see them day in day out.

To support Bede's work, please see our website, www.bede-house.org . Click the "Donate" button on the Home page and you'll see all the brilliant sponsored activities Friends of Bede – businesses, volunteers, participants and staff – are doing to raise the funds we need to continue our work. Thank you!

Learning Disabilities Project – Update on Funding

Our services for people who have a Learning Disability (and often physical disabilities as well) are now feeling the effect of cuts to Southwark Council's budget. For several years, this project has been 95% funded by grants and individual placement fees from the Council, but, since September 2015, these have been cut dramatically. As a result, we have had to reorganise our staff team and reduce our costs. Happily, thanks to everyone who has responded to our appeal for funding, especially members of The Funding Network and United St Saviours, we are in a much better position to continue our work this year, and next. Many thanks to all of you!

London Symphony Orchestra Musicians work with Bede Music Group.

Four members of the LSO joined the Bede Music Group in March and April to prepare and perform a brilliant concert on the theme "Introducing Spring". Natasha from LSO wrote to say *"Thank you very much again for all of your support in running the music sessions at the Bede Centre – everyone enjoyed working there very much and it seems like an incredibly well run centre. The participants were extremely focused and creative, and it was wonderful to have so much support from the staff – it makes a huge difference."* The music was brilliant and a real example of what we can achieve at Bede!



Thanks and well done to everyone who worked hard to make the Summer Fair on June 16 a very special day at Bede. £1,021 was raised and, as Carole Brady, our LD Manager said "It was great to see young, old and four legged members of the community with us!"



Jack Wells

As a teenager, Jack came to Bede and he kept in touch with the youth club team when he became a Dad himself. In 2015, Jack was diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer and he died on June 27 at the young age of 23. Jack had asked the local community to help him raise funds to look after his little daughter, Scarlett, after he was gone, and Bede's Summer Funday on August 18 will raise funds in Jack's memory. Members of the youth project attended Jack's funeral and our thoughts and prayers are with Scarlett, his parents and with all of his family.



Dates for Your Diary

Bede End of Summer Fun Day Thursday August 18, 2016, 12noon to 4pm at and around Bede Centre

Grosvenor Fair at the Biscuit Factory, Sunday September 11, 12 noon to 4pm, Drummond Road, SE16. Bede is the chosen charity to benefit from proceeds of the day.

Bede AGM Thursday November 10, 2016, 6.00pm

Raise funds for Bede for free by shopping on-line through Give as You Live

If you buy on line you can help Bede at the same time, at no extra cost to you. All the big on-line firms are signed up, and you can raise funds for Bede when you order your groceries on-line, or book travel and holidays. Over £980 has been raised this way already – it's very easy, so do help us raise even more. Thank you!



www.giveasyoulive/join/bedehouseassociation

Bede's Purpose – Believing in Community.

At Bede, we believe strong, confident communities enable people to flourish. That's why, since 1938, we've been working from our Bermondsey and Rotherhithe base in Southwark to support local people in creating better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. To support the needs of our local community, we run four key services: Bede's Learning Disabilities Programmes, Bede Youth Project, the Starfish Domestic Violence Project and Community Engagement through the Big Local South Bermondsey. Each aims to bring people of different backgrounds, skills and experiences together to build long-term supportive relationships that help to create new opportunities for those involved. These include young people from families on low incomes, adults with learning disabilities, survivors of domestic abuse and hate crime, elderly and unemployed people. With government statistics showing that some of our local neighbourhoods are among the 10% most deprived in the country we work hard to ensure as many people as possible get the help they need.



Each year, 1,000 people directly benefit from our services and facilities, with a further 1,000 people, such as family, carers or participants in events organised with Bede's help, benefitting indirectly. Bede's facilities are used nearly every day of the year, with, on average, more than 450 visits a week to Bede House and Bede Centre for activities and meetings. Nearly 100 people are involved in voluntary work through Bede.

Many thanks for reading this Newsletter!

Nick Dunne

Director

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