

We've moved into our new home!



The much-anticipated move into our **new building in Crimea Road** (above) has been completed successfully. Clients, staff and directors are delighted with the new premises and the opportunities they provide for expanding and enhancing the services we offer our young people.

The official opening was marked at our annual **Open Day on October 11th** when many distinguished guests and friends joined us to celebrate the year's achievements and to tour the new building.

The new building has enabled us to begin delivering our **client social activities programme** during evenings and weekends. These

diversionary activities aim to create new opportunities and a sense of community; so far they have included table tennis tournaments, movie nights, computer game competitions, board games, and a Sunday lunch, to which all accommodation clients are invited. Our staff play an important role in making these sessions happen through their dedication and perseverance.

The new building offers tremendous opportunities for us to **improve outcomes** for our clients and help realise **our vision** of "becoming a leading organisation which sets the standard for excellence and continually develops to meet the needs of homeless people and those facing adversity."



Winners of a recent table tennis tournament celebrate their victory

Barbon Group businesses pledge support

Two Bordon-based businesses have embarked on an exciting relationship with Step by Step. Keelan Westall and Cadogan Keelan Westall, fully supported by their parent company Barbon Insurance Group, have ambitious plans to raise funds for us. So far they have raised in excess of £10,000, through a summer party, cake sales, car wash and two skydives. As an added bonus, Martin Oliver, CEO of Barbon Insurance, has pledged to double the money raised. They have also offered to assist clients with work experience and skills training as well as participating in a sporting event with our young people.

We are, needless to say, delighted by this and we're looking forward to a fruitful and beneficial partnership with the two organisations.

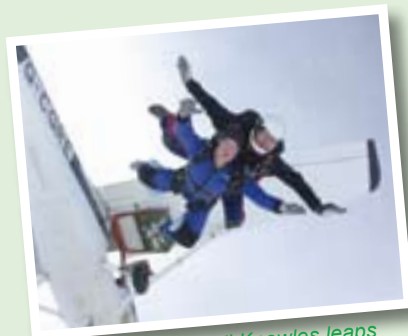
Mayor caught red-handed!



Cllr. Alex Crawford, Barney Jeavons (West End Centre), clients Fred Allen and Alex Richards and CEO Amanda Dubarry make their mark for Westival

It was all hands on deck when the Mayor of Rushmoor, Cllr. Alex Crawford, dropped in to Step by Step over the summer.

Step by Step had been invited by Barney Jeavons, Director of the West End Centre, to create a tepee as part of their weekend Westival, and the Mayor cheerfully got his hands dirty to make his contribution.



Keelan Westall's Phil Knowles leaps out at 10,000 feet



Cadogan Keelan Westall's Sky-dive team: Amber Davis, Mike Smith, Emma Louise Smith, John Buckley and Clara Chaddock

High Sheriff of Surrey Award granted

We are delighted to have won the **High Sheriff of Surrey Youth Award** for our contribution to making Surrey young people safer. This is the **third time** that we have won this prestigious award.

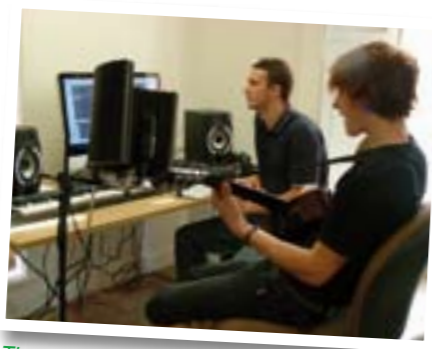
The Award gives financial support to young people in Surrey to help reduce or prevent crime and make their communities stronger and safer. We shall be using the award to help us to provide a **new media and music suite**.

The media and music suite enables young people to be creative and express themselves and is a **positive tool** for disengaging them from the antisocial activities to which they are sometimes drawn.

The media suite comprises an Apple iMac desktop computer, with audio recording and

DJ-ing equipment; these are used for DJ and music workshops.

The new facilities will also be used to provide exciting and engaging projects to support other initiatives designed to help clients overcome barriers and to progress in their lives.



The new media and music suite in action

Family Mediation success

Family Mediation is a service offered as part of the Youth AIMS (Youth Advice, Information and Mediation Service). It provides a safe opportunity for young people and their parents who are having difficulty in their relationships to come together under the guidance of a trained facilitator and try to understand one another's point of view.

In the past year, Family Mediation has succeeded in getting 67 young people back into their family homes. As a result of this success, the service has attracted further funding and we have been able to employ an additional family mediation co-ordinator

Family Mediation is an excellent example for the benefits of early intervention. For a relatively low cost, young people avoid homelessness and all the potential difficulties and dangers that can entail, as the following letter from a mother demonstrates....

"I would like to write to you to let you know how helpful and supportive I have found the mediation service offered by your agency.

I had been having ongoing relationship issues with my 16 year old son and was at the point of having to ask him to leave because his behaviour was so difficult and abusive. As a parent I was vulnerable and unsure of how to move forward with this very difficult situation at home. The time offered to us during mediation has helped my son to begin to articulate how he is feeling and has opened up some anger issues which will need to be addressed. He is receiving ongoing support from the service and the hope is that we can support him to address his anger issues and function more successfully in the family unit.

For myself Step by Step's Mediation Service has been tremendous in supporting me and what I would like from the relationship with my son and what behaviour is OK in the home and what is not acceptable. Sometimes the session has been very emotional and difficult for us both; however each week we learn something about each other which helps to improve our relationship.

I feel that if this service had not been available then my son may have found himself on the streets, where I am aware the risks to him through drug/alcohol use are greatly increased. I also feel that he would then have been vulnerable to other young people who may be familiar with the criminal justice process."

John's story

John suffers from ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome. Before coming to Step by Step he lived in care and had spent time in prison. For the last 14 months he has been living in one of our community flats.

When he first moved in John struggled; he was confused about his benefits and felt overwhelmed by the responsibility of managing his tenancy. With help from a support worker from Step by Step, John has now overcome his difficulties and he has learnt to manage his money and his tenancy. However, John knows he can contact his support worker whenever he requires further help.

John has recently redecorated the whole of his studio flat and has just started a Back to Work programme.

John's aims are to move into employment and become fully independent.

First Steps wins AQA accreditation

In our last newsletter we reported that we would be applying to AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance Examination Board) for accreditation for our First Steps programme.

Accreditation means that clients will have formal recognition in the form of a certificate for the work they produce during each of the units which makes up the First Steps programme.

As part of the process of being awarded this accreditation, training staff compiled portfolios of marked and verified work and these were assessed by an AQA examiner.

We are pleased to report that every client passed and the First Steps course is now a fully accredited course.

AQA, an educational charity, has a leading reputation for promoting education for the public benefit and draws on long experience of setting and marking public exams such as GCSEs, A-levels and other qualifications.



Coming events for your enjoyment...

Christmas Concert

The ideal way to start the festive season!

Thursday, December 8th, 2011, at 7.30pm at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot

Our guest artists are **Vivace Cantamus** and **Flute Salad**, and the concert will be a mix of seasonal carols, music and readings - and there will be plenty of opportunities to join in with the singing!

The evening will conclude with mince pies and light refreshments and there will also be a raffle. Tickets cost £8 (£4 for children aged 5-16), or £20 for a family of two adults and two children and can be obtained by phoning or emailing us, or by downloading a ticket booking form from our web site (*see below right*).

All proceeds from the concert will help to fund Step by Step's training programmes.

Burns Night Celebration

Elegance, sophistication and poetry...

Saturday, January 28th, 2012, at 7.30pm at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

We're delighted to say that this event is already fully booked! We are very sorry if you were hoping to come but haven't yet reserved tickets. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive advance notice of our fundraising events, please contact us (*see below right*).

This unique and memorable event takes place in the elegant and historic surroundings of the Old Army Staff College. It features all the traditional attractions of this essentially Scottish celebration, including a piper, sumptuous 4-course meal (including, of course, haggis), humorous speeches, an auction, and a chance to enjoy ceilidh dancing to local folk band, Jigworks.



Recent Fundraising triumphs



Almost £11,000 raised overnight!

It seems a long time ago now, but overnight on June 17/18 over 50 hardy souls camped out in the wind and rain at Aldershot Town Football Club to raise awareness of homelessness in the area and to contribute towards funding our First Steps programme.

Despite the weather it was a great night, with entertainment until 11pm, after which everyone settled down and some even slept!

Our thanks to all those that slept out (including Step by Step staff) and to Aldershot Town Football Club for their amazing support and hospitality.

Running wild!



In September a valiant group of runners - Jim & Sophie Brown, Daren Lowry, Andrew Danson, Rob Walker and Ash White - ran the **Farnham Weyside Pilgrim Marathon** in South Farnham, raising over £800 for us.

We are looking for runners to represent us at the **Fleet Half Marathon on 25th March**. If you would like to run for us, please contact the fundraising team (*see right for contact details*).

Keeping it in-house



Paul Leather (centre), one of our support workers, is a keen cricketer and took part in a charity match in Ockham in August, which raised over £300 for us.

Steve Allen and his son **Paj** cycled 280 miles from Sandhurst to Lands End in August, raising £400 for our funds. Steve is



a literacy and numeracy tutor who supports our Education and Employment programme.

Well done and thank you, Paul, Steve and Paj.

Business Links expand

We have recently formed a link with **Sainsbury's logistics and distribution centre** in Basingstoke. Ian Steggles, their Customer Liaison and Support Manager, provides regular deliveries of food items for our clients, and the company also supports us by providing food and drink for our fundraising events.

Through the **Hilton Foundation**, which funded some of the fixtures and fittings in the new building, we have developed a relationship with the **Hilton Hotel in Bracknell**. Manager Malcolm Allan has kindly donated items for auction at our Burns Night in January and there are plans for staff at the hotel to fundraise for us in 2012.

Could you run for us?

Recently **Jim Rapley** completed the Caesar's Camp Endurance Run, **completing 100 miles in just over 26 hours**. In doing so, he raised over £400 for Step by Step. A brilliant effort!

If you are a runner and would be interested in raising sponsorship for Step by Step, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

If you're looking for an event to help focus your training, we are keen to recruit a team for the **2012 Weyside Pilgrim Half and Full Marathon** (*see below left*). Please contact us for details.

And don't worry - we won't ask you to run 100 miles!



Get in touch...

T: 01252 346107

E: fundraising@stepbystep.org.uk

W: www.stepbystep.org.uk/

/concert

/burnsnight

Visit us on:

twitter @stepbystep1989

facebook Step by Step Partnership

Help us to help them

We need your help! Despite our best efforts there is a £40,000 deficit in our training budget; if we cannot bridge the gap the young people who come to us for support will suffer.

Training Services sessions are a vital part of the 'steps' our clients need to take in order to move on to live independent and successful lives. In the past year 164 young people took advantage of this support and a **very high proportion - 78% - stabilised or progressed:** a fantastic outcome not just for the young people but for the entire community.

Sadly, an increasing number of teenagers are sleeping rough in Aldershot and demand for our services is growing. We urgently need to find funding so that we can continue to help these young people. **You can help by:**

- Becoming a member, pledging a monthly donation;
- Signing up to our Century Club, giving a minimum of £100 a year;
- Leaving a legacy in your will;
- Sponsoring a training session for a young person;
- Making a one-off donation.

Contact us **today** (see page 3) - thank you!

Harvest thanksgiving

Our **sincere thanks** to all those schools, churches and other organisations who chose Step by Step to be a beneficiary of their Harvest celebrations this autumn. Our stock cupboard is now replete with basic foodstuffs to help us to feed our clients for the coming year. **We are really grateful - thank you!**

We are also very grateful to all individuals and groups who have supported us with gifts over the past few months. **Without your help our work could not continue** in its present form, so thank you for all your help.

A full list of donors can be found on our web site at www.stepbystep.org.uk/thanks.

Dear Santa....

For many young people away from their families, Christmas can be a very lonely time. At Step by Step we try to do all we can to



make the season special and ensure that every client receives a gift or two.

We'd be delighted if you, your company, church, or other organisation feel able to contribute something to help make the season a good one. Here's a list of what we'd like, but if you can offer something else, call Luke and talk to him about it.

Thank you - and a merry Christmas!

Gifts for boys or girls

Gift Vouchers

(preferably from high street stores with branches in the Aldershot/Farnborough area, eg WHSmith, Boots, Argos, Marks & Spencer, New Look, Next)

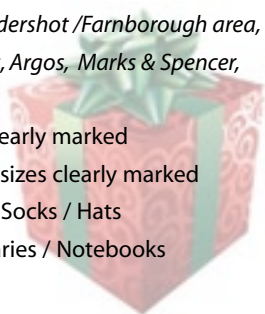
Clothing - sizes clearly marked

Dressing Gowns - sizes clearly marked

Scarves / Gloves / Socks / Hats

Alarm Clocks / Diaries / Notebooks

Toiletries



Supported Lodgings client story

When I moved into Supported Lodgings in February this year, I had little confidence. I wasn't getting on with my family due to arguments, mainly with my mum. It has caused me a lot of emotional problems that I really struggled with.

Since being in Supported Lodgings I have become more confident. I now speak to people with ease, I have learnt to cook and clean, and my time management is much better.

The support I have had has been amazing: Marie, Rita and Tony have encouraged me, motivating me when I have felt down. Rita is always there to listen when I need to talk.

When I moved in I was in my second year at college doing a performing arts diploma. With the support and encouragement I passed with merits and distinctions. Two weeks ago I started at University studying for a Theatre, Dance and Acting Degree, whilst remaining in my Supported Lodgings placement.

I couldn't have done this without the support I have had from Rita, Tony and Step by Step.



Specifically for girls

Make-up or perfume / Hair brushes

Tights / Hair dryers / Hair straighteners

Specifically for boys

Electric Shavers (for hair or beard)

After Shave / Hair Care (eg gel, putty, wax)

Items for everyone to enjoy

Christmas Decorations / Tree Lights

Christmas Crackers / DVDs / Board Games

Chocolates / Biscuits / Cakes

Wrapping Paper

Items for use in our Services

Sports equipment (new)

Xbox 360 Games

Art equipment (new)

Help with wrapping presents coming up to Christmas would be most welcome. If you can help, please contact Luke O'Neil on 01252 346119 to discuss.

Step by Step

Patron: Rt Revd Christopher Hill, Bishop of Guildford

Registered charity No. 900308

A company limited by guarantee: Company No. 2431825

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IN PEOPLE