Richard Scores for Merton Mencap!

In front of a packed stadium at AFC Wimbledon, at the business end of a gruelling season, Richard Dorris scores a vital penalty kick! The big winner was to be Merton Mencap, with Richard raising almost £900 from sponsorship for the charity.

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On Saturday 11th April Richard Dorris took part in a half-time run and penalty kick at AFC Wimbledon’s home ground Kingsmeadow, to raise money for Merton Mencap. Richard is a part of a group which supports AFC Wimbledon by attending home matches with the Community Outreach Team. It has become an annual tradition now for one of the group to take part in a half-time fundraising challenge, and this year it was Richard’s turn. For his challenge Richard chose to race against Ivor Heller, AFC Wimbledon’s Commercial Director! Richard had to sprint from the centre circle to score his penalty while Ivor ran from the corner flag to defend his goal! Richard shot low to the left hand corner, Ivor dived in the right direction but ended up a tangled mess in the back of the net! Richard and Ivor soaked up the applause from the crowd as they enjoyed their lap of honour.

The half-time challenge took place during the Wimbledon versus Oxford match and thanks to generous donations from Richard’s friends and family and fellow Dons fans he managed to raise a fantastic £890 including gift aid for Merton Mencap!

This means that the staging of annual half-time challenges with the members of the Outreach group has now raised £4,000 for charity! Marie, Warren and Danny donated funds for Comic Relief in previous years.

Richard said: “It was great scoring against my friend Ivor. I saved him by pulling his leg out of the net - it was funny! I loved the crowd applauding me. I’m a big fan of AFC Wimbledon, they let me keep the ball with their signatures on it”. A huge thank you to Ivor Heller and everyone at AFC Wimbledon.
Emma Morrell works at Bishop Gilpin Primary School in Wimbledon where she helps supervise the young children in the playground. Emma has recently received some very positive comments from her supervisor at the school; Claire Young. Claire said: “Emma has worked at Bishop Gilpin Primary School as a lunchtime supervisor since November 2010. She is responsible for overseeing the children during their lunch break, administering first aid when necessary, and working with other lunchtime staff as part of a wider team. This year, Emma has been asked to work as a playtime supervisor in the Reception playground. The children all have a great rapport and relationship with Emma, which is evident to see when visiting Emma in the playground - the children love telling Emma their news and miss her when they move further up the school!”

Emma’s views on her job:
“I love my job but when you have a mild form of autism it’s hard - lots of changes, lots of different people, but the school have been very supportive and understanding and helped me through lots of issues and problems. I’m also severely asthmatic, which is also another problem which I have to deal with and overcome in my day to day life. Life is hard when you have those two problems.”

Daniela Woolston, an Employment Advisor with Merton Employment Team, who has been supporting Emma said: “My role is to support Emma with any work issues. I will arrange to see Emma at work with her supervisor Claire from time to time and keep in regular contact by phone and email. If Emma has any difficulties at work or with getting in to work, I and the rest of the team will be on hand to support Emma and her supervisor to help resolve any issues. Emma has done extremely well in her job and her hard work is very much valued by the school and the children.”
The clients at High Path Centre took part in the British Heart Foundation's recent 'Wear Something Red to Work Day'. Those who took part included Merrill, Roy, Sharon, Michael, Joyce, Ray and Marion, all of whom wore something red to represent the charity. Merrill and Roy looked even funnier than they normally do in their curly red wigs! Sharon helped raise extra money by offering hand massages and red nail polish.

The following week, members of the High Path Client Committee visited the British Heart Foundation shop in Mitcham so that they could personally hand over the money that had been raised.

The staff in the shop were extremely grateful for the donation of £40 and they said that it had made their day.

The British Heart Foundation was founded in 1961 to fund extra research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heart disease.

Merrill Walls, whose original idea it was to support the charity, said: "I heard about it on TV and I thought it would be nice to show our support, as several of us have lost loved ones to heart disease. It was great handing over the money ourselves. Sharon Ball added: "It was great fun wearing red clothes and turning everyone’s nails red!"
PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Merton Speak Out Group

Are you good at saying what you think?
Come and join the Merton Speak out Group!

We are people with a learning disability.
We all use learning disability services,
like day centres or residential homes.

We meet at High Path

Our next meetings are:
Friday 5th June
Friday 10th July
Friday 4th September

Call Rob for more information - 020 8545 4527
FUNKY FEET

29th May 2015
7pm - 11pm
Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club (formerly the HUB)
Imperial Fields, Bishopsford Road, Morden, SM4 6BF

Ticket Price: £6.00
Tickets to be purchased from All Saints or High Path by 22nd May

Further information call: Zoey O’Brien on 020 8274 5388
Fayre & Square

Hopefully many of you will know of Fayre & Square on the Upper Mall of Wimbledon’s Centre Court Shopping Centre. If you haven’t visited yet, then don’t delay – you are missing out! They have just moved to a bigger and better shop unit, displaying and selling excellent hand made products made by local independent artisans.

Set up by Volunteer Centre Merton (now incorporated into MVSC) as part of the Supported Volunteering Project, it is a shop with a difference, set up to support young people and those with disabilities into employment by gaining skills through volunteering. The shop is staffed by individuals wishing to train to work in retail, supported by Sharon Clark, her MVSC colleagues and experienced volunteers.

There is a real demand for the opportunity to train at Fayre & Square to a point where a waiting list has been introduced. The shop is currently open Wednesday to Saturday each week and in the future it is hoped to extend the opening hours further, which would help see more individuals through the learning programme which normally lasts between 9 and 12 weeks.
Two years on Fayre & Square have supported more than 60 volunteer workers through their doors, learning how to use the till, displaying products and practising their customer service skills. Many of the volunteer staff have been referred to Fayre & Square by The Merton Employment Team for people with a learning disability. The training they received there certainly seems to have had the desired effect as the majority have progressed on to further training or volunteering and to date, six individuals have moved on from the project into paid employment with companies such as Marks & Spencer and Body Shop.

If you have a learning disability and would like the opportunity to enhance or expand your retail skills to improve your chance of finding paid work, then a time limited work placement at Fayre & Square could be the answer.

You can contact Sharon Clark of MVSC on 0208 640 7355 and there is more information about the project on facebook at:-
https://www.facebook.com/FayreAndSquareWimbledon

Once you had successfully completed a work placement at Fayre & Square, if you felt ready to tackle paid work then this would be the time to contact:-

Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX
Every year, Health & Social Services have to tell NHS England how well they are delivering health services and Social Care to people with a learning disability.

This year the NHS asked about 3 different things:

**Staying Healthy**
That the Doctors, Dentists & Pharmacists are making sure you get a good service to keep you staying healthy.

**Keeping Safe**
That you receive a review of your care every year. That you feel safe and can talk about it to someone. That you know how to complain and you are listened to. Staff have the correct training and you are treated with dignity and respect.

**Living well**
That all the local services in the community such as cinemas, shops, gyms, toilet and changing facilities are helping you to go out in the community.

**What we did in Merton**
We sent questionnaires out to all Clients and Carers who live in Merton. We spoke to various groups and consulted with them such as the Carers Group, the Speak Out Group and Merton People First.
We then collected all the questionnaires and looked at them to see what you had to say.

We then had a big meeting in December 2014 to let you know the results and give everyone an opportunity to let us know if we had missed anything.

At the meeting we all discussed the Three Big Topics and voted on how well we thought Merton was doing.

These were the results

Staying healthy: OK

Keeping safe: OK

Living well: GOOD

You said that generally in the three categories services were ok and gave some good examples of when you had a good service. However you also told us when you had not received a good service and what can be done to improve care.

Janine and Vanessa had another big meeting to check that everything you told them was included in the Report to NHS England.

At the Partnership Board meeting in January we came and told you the results.
Vanessa and Janine would like to say thank you to everyone who came and took part.
Now Vanessa and Janine will write an Action Plan for this year.
The Community Outreach groups have recently enjoyed some fantastic days out, including a trip to the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey. Alex, Michael, Kayleigh, Natasha, and Hayan learned a lot from the animal keepers’ talks about Britain’s native wildlife, including: otters, deer, badgers, wild cats, foxes, & hedgehogs.

The British Wildlife Centre was started in 1997 and their objective is to help people learn more about the U.K.’s native wildlife in the hope that they too will want to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

The Centre’s future plans include creating a wetland habitat and reptile area.

Michael Arnold said: “The keeper let us stroke the owl, which was my favourite of all the animals.”

If you would like to know more about trips and activities with the Community Outreach Team, talk to Andy O’Brien at High Path: 020 8274 5361

If anyone has any comments on the newsletter, or would like to write an article or just has a question, contact:
Duncan or Nick on 020 8274 5361 or by email -
duncan.badenoch@merton.gov.uk
nick.carpenter@merton.gov.uk