

SHAD seeks Volunteer involvement!



support & housing assistance for people with disabilities

SUPPORT AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

From time to time, SHAD has tried to encourage volunteers' to provide input into how SHAD operates and to work with the organisation to improve the services provided to users.

Such involvement can only benefit SHAD as a whole and go some way towards eliminating the feelings of 'us and them' which surface now and again.

Quite often, it is when SHAD hears that communication issues arise that it is prompted again to seek ways to improve openness and transparency in its operations.

Although many times in the past SHAD has sought ways to engage more widely with volunteers it has not been successful. One of the reasons for this is that often volunteers' are with SHAD for a relatively short period of time and perhaps it is felt this creates barriers rather than benefits. Another reason is that volunteers are loathe to perhaps give up their

limited free time to assist in the improvement of services. Whatever the reason(s) SHAD is conscious of the need for volunteer input and would value any contributions or representations it was felt would benefit not only service users but also volunteers.

SHAD constantly strives to improve the experience of volunteering with the organisation and for this reason would welcome the thoughts and views of volunteers both

individually and collectively.

Perhaps one or two volunteers might be willing to put themselves forward to meet periodically with members of the staff team to discuss issues of

interest and to seek ways to improve the 'volunteer experience'. Alternatively, someone might want to write a piece for this newsletter!

Let Vitalis, Ambreen or Jakki know if

you have any thoughts or views.

Remember to look out for the SHAD new style newsletter scheduled for publication at the end of September 2007!

Carnival is coming! - See Page 3



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Editing:

**Vitalis & Ambreen
Volunteer Managers**

Important bits

CSCI Inspection Imminent!

As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, SHAD is due to receive a visit from representatives of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).



The purpose of the visit is to see how SHAD complies with the provisions of the Care Standards Act 2000 and how it meets the numerous standards for 'care' as laid

down by that Act.

Although CSCI and the Care Standards Act refer to the word care, SHAD, as an organisation prefers the word 'support' and it is for this reason all our policies, documentation and procedures refer to support rather than care. This is mentioned to avoid any confusion during the CSCI visit. The words are interchangeable and readers should be aware of this to avoid any confusion.

New Identity Cards

As part of the compliance requirements of CSCI, SHAD is phasing out the old style yellow ID cards that were issued to volunteers primarily for the purpose of cashing allowance cheques.

The new ID cards will initially be issued to new volunteers although it is expected all old style cards will be replaced in the coming weeks. The new cards will carry the photograph of the holder and volunteers should expect to be asked to be available to have their photograph taken by SHAD for this purpose.

The new ID should be carried at all times and must be shown on demand.

More important bits!

Although it may not always be apparent, it is important to remember that volunteering with SHAD brings with it responsibility to adhere to Health and Safety requirements at all times.

**Recommend a volunteer to SHAD
and (if they obtain a placement)
win a token!**
Call Vitalis or Ambreen for details

Even though SHAD takes steps to ensure the safety of service users and volunteers they too have a duty to ensure that any risks are minimised. This means service users should not request volunteers carry out unsafe practices and volunteers should ensure they comply at all times with the advice and recommendations of the SHAD Safe

Movement and Handling advisors. In this connection volunteers should always ensure they wear adequate footwear when on duty. Flimsy shoes or sandals should not be worn when, for example, manoeuvring a wheelchair or assisting service users in transfers or bathing/showering. SHAD does not advocate the wearing of safety boots but does suggest volunteers be both practical and sensible when on duty!

General Information

How do I become a volunteer?

Call Vitalis or Ambreen on
020 8675 6095 or see our website
at:
www.shad.org.uk

See details on Page 3!



Cover! Cover! Cover!

SHAD is always keen to hear from volunteers who have the availability to carry out cover shifts in addition to their normal sessions.

If you are interested in additional shifts please notify either Vitalis or Ambreen.

General Information

We welcome our new volunteers and hope they all enjoy their placements at SHAD!

Otmar Dreyer

Nika Smart

We say goodbye and thank you so very much to:

Laura Castellanos

Massih Chopan

and

Verity Berry

Good Luck to you all!

Time Out!

The latest copy of Time Out will be in the office from this afternoon. Please feel free to come and browse. There are lots of free and cheap events going on throughout London. You can use the office photocopier to copy any information you find of interest.

*Enjoy & let others enjoy the flat!
only with the permission of the
Volunteer Managers are you allowed
to bring a guest into the flat!*

Next Allowance Payments!

Remember, August is a 'five week month' and consequently the next date for payment of allowances will be **Wednesday, 29 August 2007**, when volunteers will receive £60 personal allowance plus any outstanding transport reimbursement and cover shift payments!

Yet more information

Notting Hill Carnival Dance Weekend

One of the biggest street festivals in Europe with hundreds of thousands of people dancing to music from 45 sound systems and live bands - from Hip Hop to Calypso, Garage to Latin, Soca to Steel pan. Spectacular carnival floats produced by the people who dedicate their spare time for a

year creating them. Children's day Sunday, Main Day Monday, plus steel band competition on Saturday. Meanwhile the Watch This Space festival outside the National Theatre continues with a 4 day Dance Weekend, a great mix of performance, classes and dances, from ballroom to Bollywood, tea dance to flamenco. And for something different how about having a go at Archery (£3) in Croydon on Sunday (see next column for details).

Archery: Have a Go

The Croydon Sacred Archery club is having an open day on 26 August. Lots of fun for all ages so come along and experience some archery. They will also have food and other stalls.

30 minutes archery training £6 or 'Have a Go' 6 Arrows £3!

Address: The Rugby Ground, Frant Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7JP

(more details centre column below)

"Fun corner! Enjoy London"

Making the most of London.....

For a free guide to the London night scene check the following sites:

www.clubseekers.com

<http://www.viewlondon.co.uk>

There are loads of great films on show, too many to mention – see Time Out for details..

(Archery continued)

By Rail:

Nearest British Rail station is Thornton Heath, British Rail service from Clapham Junction or East Croydon. From Thornton Heath station turn right onto Brigstock Road, walk straight down (approx. 10 minutes) and turn left onto Frant Road.

Rail enquiries: 08457 484950

By Bus:

Routes: 60, 64, 109, 194, 198, 250, and 289 all stop nearby.

Telephone: 07973 764 666

Date: Sunday 26 August

Be sure to check details with the organisers before you go!



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We're on the Web!

www.shad.org.uk

Jakki's Bit

Happiness, joy and sadness abound at the moment!

Happiness and joy because on Saturday I saw my eldest son marry his lovely partner. It was the most wonderful day full of family and friends with a moving humanist ceremony written by the couple themselves conducted in a beautiful sunny rose garden.

Sadness arose because my second son and his partner are now aware that their forthcoming child (due in November) has the condition known as Talipes. This is a condition that affects the feet of 1 in 1,000 babies born in the UK every year. It's twice as common in boys than in girls and a genetic predisposition means it tends to run in families. Consequently unnatural feelings of guilt and responsibility can also abound. This said, I was heartened when the prospective father, who is 23, said to me "we are all dealt with the cards of life and it is up to us how we play them". This not only assures me the new baby will be loved and cherished by his or her parents together with the family as a whole but also that young people of today can be and are realistic about the challenges life throws at us all from time to time.

We hear many stories of what happens when young people, for whatever reason, find it difficult to cope with the reality of life and for this reason I have been perhaps self indulgent in bringing you news that young people also have the ability to cope and cope well.

Further information on Talipes can be found at www.steps-charity.org.uk

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Organisation

**This issue is also available in other formats
for visually impaired readers.**

And Finally...

Graduating in embarrassment

It was my final year at university, the exams were over, and the results were out. But the worst was yet to come ... Graduation day. Yes, I'm talking about Graduation day.

For parents, graduation is one of the proudest moments of their lives. For many parents of disabled children, it is an achievement they never thought would happen for their offspring. For disabled students, however, graduation can be one of the most humiliating events we'll experience.

It was this tension that led me to have the only row I've ever had with my parents. I decided not to attend my university graduation and my mother and father were less than impressed.

Originally, I had intended to put on the old mortarboard and gown and graduate like everyone else. I'd seen enough American high school movies to know that graduation was 'cool', and that at the end of the ceremony we'd all throw our caps up into the air and cheer.

However, that little fantasy bubble was burst when I went to order a cap and gown for the occasion. As someone who normally wears children's clothes, I asked for a black gown suitable for someone of between 8 and 10 years of age. Obviously there weren't that many child prodigies at my university back then, because they seemed a little embarrassed by my request.

They did offer me the smallest gown they had, but even that was big enough to drown both me and my wheelchair under one huge black sea of fabric. There was no way I was going to mark the end of my university life dressed like a ghoulish freak on wheels from *The Addams Family*.

Then there were the access issues to consider. The ceremony was to take place on a 12 foot high stage in the university sports centre. It's a shame that this was in the days before the Disability Discrimination Act, or perhaps I could have sued the Law department for failing to make a reasonable adjustment to get me onto the stage. Their solution? The entire Law faculty were going to parade down the staircase and present me with my

scroll separately from everyone else. Lucky me.

My main reason for refusing to go to graduation, however, was because of the applause. As a disabled student, I knew that when my name was called and I was given my degree, the clapping would be louder than for anyone else. I'm now a performer who enjoys being applauded, but on the day I graduated, all I wanted was to be as memorably unmemorable as every other student there and to receive equal applause rather than a standing ovation out of a sense of pity.

My parents won, of course. I attended graduation, and the permanent photographic reminder of that dreaded day taunts me from their mantelpiece every time I visit. In the end, my tutor loaned me a mini-ish gown, and only one professor came down the steps to present me with my degree.

As for the applause, I shouldn't have been so worried, because the loudest cheers went to the other disabled person graduating that year.

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