



Just some of the team posing for the camera at head office

issue 06

Adults Supporting Adults

JIGSAW

IT'S THE ALL NEW 'ASA APPRENTICE'....."YOU'RE FIRED"

Either that or it's a group of rather odd looking people waiting for the same bus after attending a party political conference. I would have used the prison lineup tag, but that's been used before. Anyway as the picture demonstrates some are far more photogenic than others, naming no names. I can't for the life of me think why there is a need to smile at times like these, only joking.

Well the merry month of May is already upon us and here we are with our 6th Edition of Jigsaw. Lots has happened since Christmas I know, the new finance system for providers

appears to have worked...HoorahWell Done Steve. Sadly, Dawn Maplethorpe has left us Boo Hoo!!! However, Karen McNulty has joined us...Hooray!!! Again lots of stories from around the areas, you are an interesting bunch, some poems, dodgy photographs and important information. I also get the chance to feel what its like to be a lady and I don't mean shopping all day, so you can probably guess who lost the race between me and Steve...it was a fix I might add. Can I remind everyone to keep sending in articles to me, email is best dean.barnshaw@asaorg.co.uk Without you there is no magazine, so be you provider, client, staff or someone who know us keep them coming in please. Hope you enjoy this Spring edition....Dean

ASA Update from Trixie

Hi Everyone, I can hardly believe that it is time to print the next edition of the jigsaw. I don't know about you but this year seems to be just flying by.....anyway before we lose any more time let me tell you some of our exciting news.

NAAPS – Shared lives.

For those of you who belong to NAAPS you will know they have been going through some major changes, not least in their name, so as a gradual move to the new name Shared Lives you will see less and less of NAAPS. The organisation continues to support services, providers and clients but felt that the new name was more updated and representational of the services they offer. It will take some getting used to, but like all things after a while, will become everyday language.

Annual England Conference

On the subject of Shared Lives – ASA have been offered the chance to host the annual England Conference something we have long wanted – to bring national members to our county and appreciate what we have to offer – so here it is. We are set to conference on 22nd and 23rd



October at Belton Woods resort hotel in Grantham www.deverehotels.co.uk. It is hoped to provide a good practical conference where people can spend time together sharing all aspects of good practice and examples of the services that we all provide. It will be a celebration of what is good about the Shared Lives experience and we will be looking for examples to be highlighted and showcased at the Dinner on the 22nd Oct. It is hoped as many members will attend as possible and take the opportunity to stay at the hotel and enjoy not only a good time in the hands of Shared Lives but the experience of the hotels facilities like spa, swimming pool, golf beautiful surroundings. etc etc. We have formed a committee to ensure we cover all necessary areas and to ensure the conference is a success. If anyone would like to join this group of dedicated individuals and help with the conference preparation please contact me as soon as possible. Any ideas and creative thinking would be welcomed!! Well I guess that is all for now but we will send out further information about the conference nearer the time and I hope as many of you will be able to join us. It will be a fantastic opportunity to meet old and new friends from around the country. Watch this space!!

Finally, we are hoping to set up an exhibition of the work clients and Providers carry out together. We would appreciate it if you could send us any art or craft work which could be used, or photos of activities you carry out together. We also need an innovative name for the exhibition – Any ideas? – send those to us with your contributions. Don't forget to include names so that we can ensure you get credit for your creation, but also return it to you after the conference.

Best wishes to you all, Trixie

Provider Forum

Remember, if you're a provider be it extended stay, respite, daytime provision or at home day service, and you have something that you would like to pass on, then you have the opportunity to contact the following representatives in your area.

Steve Hayes

1 Church Road
Boston
PE21 9LW
Tel: 01205 361102

Dave Harrison

Hill Top Cottage
Middle Street
South Carlton
Lincoln
LN1 2RW
Tel: 01522 730923

John Smith

Hawthorns
Main Road
Saltfleetby
LN11 7TI
Tel: 01507 338358

Helen and Ian McDonald

The Cottage
Blue House Farm
Deeping St Nicholas
PE11 3DH
Tel: 01775 630610

Janet Baker

Gerudach Cottage
Roman Bank
Saracens Head
Holbeach
PE12 8BB
Tel: 01406 422466

Wheels in the Woods

Saturday 28 June 2008 at 10.30am

Stapleford Wood car park

CountrysideNK are organising an event called 'Wheels in the Woods'.

Especially for users of wheels, whether wheelchairs or pushchairs, WatchNK ranger, Ben Wilson, will guide you around the all-ability trail in Stapleford Wood to enjoy the beauty of the woodland. The route is slightly less than a mile and we will be stopping periodically to enjoy our surroundings so it's suitable for almost everyone.

We are meeting in the main car park in Stapleford Wood at 10.30am on Saturday 28 June before setting off into the wood.

If the weather has been particularly wet please contact the Natural World Centre 01522 694353 before attending this event.

For further details contact Theresa Hobbs on 01522 694353 or email theresa.hobbs@leisureconnection.co.uk



Haven Lea Update

Now for the latest news from the 'Haven Lea' Crew, they have been very busy dear readers, Matty Yum Yum is doing his PAT DOG visiting, that is when he isn't shedding his hair all over everyone, it is the season I am afraid, Matty also celebrated his third birthday in style, received cards and gifts from friends and family, balloons were put up, there were games, treats and a special birthday tea for everyone, Matty ordered Strawberry jelly for afters, Sybil as usual managed to get her face all sticky and kicked up an almighty fuss when she had to have it washed, typical Sybil. Sophie (The Duchess) and Sybil had an exciting day, we all went to visit friends in Cambridgeshire, Sophie met up with her Daddy Byron, a Standard Long Haired Daschund while Sybil saw her Mother, Nellie Nonsense, sister Madge and various other relations, a very happy day was had by all. Sybil, Upsy Daisy, and Tigga are also busy with their PAT DOG duties, visiting the old folk, Sybil also likes to be an Uptown Girl with her Auntie Marisa,

much more than her Mum I have to say, we are looking forward to visiting the Skegness Day Centre, well Sybil and maybe Tigga to begin with, hopefully cheer up the folk there, any readers who would like to meet any of the PAT DOGS then maybe the Day Centre would be a good place, we would love to see you, well I am being reminded that it is now eleven o'clock so will sign off for now, until next time, Very Best Wishes, from, Sandra and 'The Crew'.



Hello it's me again woof woof !!!

CSCI Annual Review

Hi Everyone

Some of you will have been contacted by ASA's regulatory body, The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). Keith Williamson is ASA's inspector at present and he will have sent questionnaires out to you to comment on ASA as an organisation. Can I take this opportunity to say thank you to all of those clients and providers who completed questionnaires and returned them to CSCI. This certainly contributed to ASA being able to maintain its rating of being a Good Service.

Next year it is likely ASA will undergo a full inspection so we will be working very hard to improve or at the very least, maintain our rating.

All information can be seen on the CSCI website www.csci.org.uk.

Jayne Morton
Operations Manager

Walk the Walk in Boston

Do you enjoy walking and have no one to walk with? Then join a healthy social walking group that's been introduced and funded by the Choosing Healthy Programme of the Primary Care Trust. The social walk is aimed at all ages and abilities and all members receive a very warm and friendly welcome.

The walks will be led weekly by the Sports and Play Department at Boston Borough Council from February at 10am until 12.30pm from St Nicholas Community Centre Fishtoft Rd, Skirbeck, Boston. All routes are easy walking and are wheelchair friendly, the members at the end of their trek will receive a welcome cup of tea with biscuits and a chat thrown in. and the best thing is that it's FREE. If you are interested in taking part or want info, then contact FRANCES on 01205 354320.

Have a good day from Andrew Hawkes, Nick, Mick, Philip and Sarah at Boston.

Important News - Housing Benefits

Just to make you aware, as of April 7th 2008, all new Housing Benefit claims will be paid directly to the client. Those clients who are already in receipt of a Housing Benefit award and do not have a change in their entitlement before this date will not be affected. The new scheme called the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is designed to give people more choice as well as the opportunity to manage their own finances. For some providers this will mean setting up a process in which the Housing Benefit is passed on to you, be it through Standing Order or other means. Don't forget to write out a receipt if required. Further information can be found on your local councils website and in local offices. (Taken from County News May 2008)



Short Stories by Christine Gabbitass

Holiday Last September I went to Minehead with skylark holidays. When I was there we went on a couple of 1960's shows which I enjoyed very much. We also went shopping and met lots of different people. This year in June we are going to Euro Disney.

My Budgie I bought my budgie just after Christmas for some company. I call him Georgie. He is green in colour. He is just a baby at the minute. He lives in his cage in my lounge.

To Westlife I am a big fan, I have posters, c.d's. My favourite song is World of our Own. I also went to Nottingham to see you in concert with my sister which I enjoyed very much.

Best wishes. Christine Gabbitass, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.

My Life Story

by John Mitchell from Skegness



I was born in Carlton, Nottingham, on 21st February 1949, I grew up in Oldham Street, with my 3 older sisters and 2 older brothers, all of whom have unfortunately now died. Dad did allsorts of jobs, as I grew up, but we lived at the greengrocers and paper shop which mum and dad ran together, I remember going off to the wholesalers by Notts County ground to pick up vegetables.

I went to the Hogarth Infant and junior school, and then onto the Manvers secondary modern, I did alright until I left school at 15 years old with no qualifications. Aunty Pem was a cleaner at school so I had to behave, if not I would have been grounded.

My parents used to bring me to Skegness on holidays, I'd always be given a bucket and spade, and from about 6 years old while other kids were on the beach building sand castles I'd be in the sand dunes digging up plants and studying the roots, even at that young age. I needed to know why the plants grew in sand and not in soil. It was around this time that my dad bought me a kid's microscope, only a small one, but it opened my whole life up really, I was able to study the roots and I was in my element.

As for my memories of school, I played football; I supported Notts County as a kid. I played a bit of cricket. We used to play on some waste land called "the mount" and we used to chase the girls. Even then I'd often wander off on my own looking for plants. It was at a time when you could let your kids out, I can still hear my mum outside the shop shouting "John, dinner" at the top of her voice.

My first job was a paper round with mum and dad owning the paper shop, I'd be out at 5.30 every morning delivering the paper and reading the comics that were meant for delivery on the way round.

When I left school, I went to work for Boots, at Beeston. I was in the plants dept; this is where they tested chemicals. Within 6 months I was sort of promoted to the white coat brigade. I was learning the Latin names for the plants, and was getting interested in bugs. I wanted to know why so many aphids were on one plant. I told my parents about it and they bought me a book on aphids, I've still got it. I was interested in pollination too, why and how plants "grow there, but not there." I'd had a fascination with ants since I was young, sat on the pavement outside of shop watching them, but my interest in science and especially eco structures was growing.

I had loads of mates, living in the local shop this was a focal point. We'd then go and meet in the centre at the "Market Square" by the Lions; we used to go to the Castle and the gardens, and the Arboretum looking at butterflies.

By this time I was working in the tablet dept, designing new tablets with the chemists. I never stopped asking questions and they never tired of it, my supervisor was a brilliant chap. Then I went to work in another part of Boots, where the testing labs and offices were. I was mainly fetching and carrying, but I was learning as well, spending one day a week at college, like an apprenticeship. By now my interest in entomology – pests and diseases had taken hold. I stayed at Boots from 1964 when I left school until 1968. I remember watching England win the world cup in 1966, watching at my parent's house.

In 1968 I went down the pit; I was at Gedling Colliery. There were no plants down there, and it was very dark. It was hard work. There was a pit pony, it'd spent all its life down the pit and it couldn't go up on top, but it wasn't a working pony. It was one of my jobs to look after it. There were lots of accidents down there, men loosing limbs. I couldn't smoke down the pit because of the gases. I stayed there until 1970, about 2 years, but I got fed up because there were no plants. I helped mum and dad in the shop for a while after that.

Cont.

Then I went in the Army. I was in the Royal Corps of Transport, Buller barracks. I remember the barracks across the road being blown up by the IRA, there were a lot of injuries that day. I joined up to travel, but I became Major Brown's driver, based in Aldershot, I travelled as far as Salisbury Plains, driving squaddies about. I drank beer around the camp fire. But I did get a chance to look at plants on Salisbury Plains while the squaddies were on manoeuvres. After 18 months of this I left and went back to Boots.

In 1970, before I went in the Army I met Christine, at the Goose Fair in Nottingham. We eloped to Gretna Green, but didn't tell our parents. Christine was 15 years old. We stopped at Mrs McClean's guest house for 2 nights. Christine put a ring on her wedding finger; otherwise we would have had to stay in separate rooms. But we ran out of money and didn't get married, we went to the police station and told them what we'd done and they put us on a train back to Nottingham. We were met by our parents and we were separated. But it soon became apparent that Christine was pregnant and we got married before Sean was born. Christine stayed in Nottingham with Sean while I was in the Army.

In 1973 when I left the Army I went back down the pit, so that we could get a pit house. I left again after about 18 months but was able to keep the pit house as long as we paid the rent. I went from job to job, mainly driving, all over the country.

Towards the back end of the 1970's, when I was in my late 30's I wanted to get back into plants, mainly pests and diseases. I applied to Nottingham University, where David Bellamy was one of my lecturers, and I got involved with the Royal Horticultural Society. I completed my degree and my PHD doctorate in entomology over 6 years, working odd jobs to pay the bills.

In the meantime my oldest daughter, Joanne was born, and unfortunately me and Christine separated. I was a single father bringing up the 2 children on my own for a while.

In 1985 I went to Kew gardens, David Bellamy put in a good word for me. While I was there I met Prince Charles. My title at Kew was entomologist, and my job was teaching students, and looking after the tropical plants

in the greenhouses, stopping them getting infected.

As a teenager I started to write about plants, and while I was at Kew my book was published by them, and is used by the students.

From Kew I moved to Oxford, where I met and married Patricia, whose parents had a farm which I used to help out on. In the late 1980's I set up a business in London, but it went bust. I also lectured at the University College, Oxford. When my relationship with Patricia broke down I went to Skegness and stayed in a guest house. I took a job working on the land, pulling leeks with my landlady's sons.

I met and married Julie, and we opened a shop in Sutton, I sold plants and she sold children's clothes. But the lease ran out after a year. So I went into landscape gardening in Skeggy.

I had to give up work at the beginning of the 1990's when Julie developed multiple sclerosis, as we had a young daughter; I looked after Julie and our daughter. We added to our family again, Derek is my youngest child. As the family grew the house in Skegness became too small, and we moved to Wainfleet St Mary. I always sent the children off to school with a cooked breakfast inside them, and they came home for dinner because they didn't like school dinners. I had a helper, called Nanny Margaret; she helped a bit with the children, but also with my wife. She retired and as the children were getting older we didn't get another helper. Soon after we moved to Wainfleet St Mary I had my first stroke about 10 years ago. The pressure of looking after the family became too much and I started drinking. We split up about 5 years ago. Since then I've had 2 more strokes. I stayed in the family home when we first split up, but after my last stroke Social Services became involved and offered me a bungalow back in Skeggy which I agreed to straight away.

I was introduced to ASA about a year ago, Hayley; my DTP helps me with appointments, sorting out my bungalow, cheers me up and keeps me in contact with Sean, my oldest son who now lives in Skegness. Hayley does a super duper job, and is also helping me to get back into plants.

The Monkey's Paw

by Grant Robinson

It was a, warm, pleasant evening in August; 1889, inside a little cottage – situated a mile from the nearest town - Mr and Mrs Tibbs, along with their son Horace, who had only been home a couple of hours from work, were sitting at their dining table; Mr Tibbs and his son were playing a game of draughts, their usual pastime in the evenings, whilst Mrs Tibbs was reading that day's newspaper.

The cottage they lived in was small, and in a terrible state of disrepair; unfortunately, as the two parents were, both, in their 60s, neither worked; only Horace – who was in his 20s – had a job working for a local firm manufacturing cars.

Anyway, that evening there was a knock at the front door; Mrs Tibbs got up, as it seemed that her husband was too engrossed in his game, to answer it. "Good evening Mr Davies," she said, as she saw who it was, "please come in."

Mr Davies was an old family friend; as he and Mr Tibbs had served in the army together, many years ago, and he'd been a friend of the family ever since. The man walked in, and found a seat at the dining table. "Hello Davies," said Mr Tibbs, from where he sat, then said, "I think Horace has just about beaten me again." Mr Tibbs got up and, slowly, ambled across to the drinks cabinet, "Whisky, Davies?"

"Yes please," replied the other man, so Tibbs poured them both a whisky each.

"What brings you here?" Mrs Tibbs asked Mr Davies curiously, as no-one visited the Tibbs's house in the evenings.

"A good question my dear lady," he replied, as Mr Tibbs brought the drinks over – three glasses of whisky: one for himself, his son and their guest, plus a glass of wine for his wife. Once Tibbs was seated Mr Davies began, graveness and yet mystery in his tone, "As you know I have travelled to many

different country's, in my army days, and in my research of human behaviour. One such country I visited, along with my wife was Morocco, where I purchased this on the open market," with that he produced, from his coat pocket, a monkey's paw with the fingers clenched, "and I have come here to tell you how my life has changed, for the worse I might add, since acquiring it."

"What is that filthy thing?" demanded the lady of the house, "It looks horrible;" both father and son were studying it with immense interest.

"Why," replied Davies, "it is a monkey's paw, it grants the owner of it three wishes. However, the stallholder who sold it to me informed me a curse was on the paw so each wish would have a downside."

"Did you try the paw, sir?" asked Horace, curious.

"I did young man," answered Davies, looking at him, "unfortunately, I ignored the warning the stallholder gave me and since then nothing but misfortune has befallen me."

"Such as?" queried Tibbs.

"For my first wish, whilst on the return voyage, I wished I was already at home, I was holding the paw at the time, and as I spoke the words one of the outstretched fingers clenched; as you can probably guess when I bought it three of the fingers were outstretched. Back to my story I wished I was already at home and funny thing was I went to sleep that night, with my wife, in our cabin and I woke up next morning in my own bed, without my wife. A couple of days later I bought a newspaper, as is my habit, whose main story was about a woman who had drowned; I took the paper home and read the full story. Apparently, on a liner returning from Morocco, a woman had woken one morning to find her husband had disappeared from the cabin they shared."

He paused and took a sip of whisky, and then continued in the same grave tone, "She set about searching for him; not being able to locate him she ran onto the deck to carry on her search, she was still in her nightdress, such was her hurry that she, accidentally – so it said, ran into one of the railings and was catapulted overboard. Eventually she was hauled back aboard, dead – she had drowned. Anyway, this woman of which I speak was identified, by another passenger, as Mrs Mary Davies!"

He looked at each of them. Mrs Tibbs asked the question they, each, had more or less already guessed the answer to, "You don't mean?"

"I do my dear lady," and he started sobbing. "I'm sorry."

"We're sorry for your loss," said Tibbs,

"But you couldn't have known."

"No, I couldn't," replied Davies. "Anyway, onto my second wish: once I'd recovered from the shock of learning this news I wished to be rich. Again one of the, remaining, outstretched fingers clenched; within a few hours I was rich, beyond my wildest dreams, but at what cost? Again, I learned from the newspaper, next day, that all my businesses had gone bankrupt, suddenly, and some major firm had bought them all; therefore all this money was the surplus income from my businesses and the money used to buy me out."

"Again, we're all very sorry for your loss," remarked Tibbs.

"Finally," started Davies, after draining his glass, "for my third wish I wished my wife was still alive." The final finger clenched; A few hours passed and nothing more happened; nothing further had happened by the next morning, so I thought; anyway I went to visit my wife's grave that day, whilst I was placing fresh flowers there I heard this loud hammering and, I fancied, I could just about hear a muffled voice calling out, Help me, I'm still alive! I deduced that the

hammering and voice were coming from my wife's grave, so along with the help of several young men, who were working on the church, and permission from the vicar, we exhumed the coffin of my dear wife and opened it. What we saw was truly horrible."

"Go on," urged Tibbs.

"Inside was my wife, but not the wife I knew and had loved. Her whole body was now covered in insects, eating her; one of her eyeballs was missing and there were worms crawling from the socket, plus she was deathly white. The stench that hit us all, when we opened the coffin, was like freshly spread manure. So, after seeing this terrible sight I was left with no choice but to kill her again; one of the men gave me his spade and I hit my wife with it, then we fastened the coffin up and buried it, as deep down as we could."

"I suppose you could be right and everything that happened was simply a coincidence, but I am convinced that supernatural powers were at work. It is because of this conviction that I, now, hate monkey's paw's!" he concluded, reaching for the object, and throwing it towards the blazing fire.

Mr Tibbs caught it and said to his old friend, "If you don't want it, we'll have it," then got up and set it on the mantel piece above the fire.

"If you are ever tempted to use it observe the warnings. Don't ignore them like I did," and then he left, without another word and



Presentation Evening

Well after the success of the last presentation evening and allowing chance for those of us to recover from the 'Badgers Bum' wine fiasco, it was time again to recognise those Day Time Providers who had completed the recent round of Common Induction Training. Plus there were a few old stragglers from the BILD/LDAF booklets.....Oh yes and not forgetting the Area Supervisors and Administrator who received certificates for completing their recent NVQ2 course in 'Team Leadership' and Administration. Well done to you all....Smarty Pants the lot of you!!!

It was a fun evening, everyone was smiling and making stimulating

conversation; and all were suitably impressed by the lovely buffet created by 'chef extraordinaire' Dean (no swearing in the kitchen) Barnshaw and his trusted side kick and Chief Cook and Bottle Washer Jayne (Fanny) Morton. Barely a sandwich was left unturned (three day old bread); it's amazing what you can do with five loaves of bread, two fishes and a jar of Marmite.

The names of the providers who received certificates were: Lorna Grealish, Jean Killingsworth, Ben Bowser, Lynda Slack, Emma Hilton (who came all the way from Grimsby), Clair Sterland, Tina Mellors, Paul Spooner, Val Powrie, Ann Marie Smith,



Unfortunately, the third member of 'Banamarama' was unable to attend the presentation evening...probably on a Winter solo tour of Butlins.

Delise and David Stoddart, Brain Margason, Darren Kingswood, Hayley Nixon, Christine Handbury, Samantha Green, Carol Killick, Sharon Hutchesson, Gillian Scourfield, Sarah Clayton, Cyril Baker, Carol Bell, Brian Boles, Alan Clark, Julie Davies, Helen Deans, Christine Foreman, Liz Frost, Margaret Gale, Diana Martin, Robert

Moir, Liz Nicholson, John and Sally Smith, Maureen St Pier, Nancy Chapman and Christine Williams. Thank you to those of you who attended.

Photographs of providers receiving their certificates are available if requested.



" I told you we should've gone with British Airways...there's far more leg room and the trolley dollies are a far sight younger than the ones on tonight's flight".

" Oh isn't that Dean an amazing chef....have you tried his fondant fancies?"

" No...but have you seen how many sandwiches I can fit in my mouth!!"

**'PARP.....BURRRRP'.
"Oh charming".**

"Sorry. It wasn't me, I think it was that Fanny Morton lady over there". "Just typical of the ASA staff today".



Louth and Boston Area

Hello again everybody, a big, big thank you to those of you who attended the Louth Jigsaw Sunday Lunch in February, nearly thirty of us in total. I'm sure it's only because you thought ASA were footing the bill...no not really. It was a brilliant afternoon, the weather was shining and some of us met up with friends we hadn't seen in a long time. The feedback was very positive and it's something we'll probably do again before the end of the year.

Given that the Sunday lunch was a booming success we are now in the process of planning a beach party and bring your own picnic in Chapel, sometime at the beginning of August, (don't worry you'll be sent letters nearer the time). It will be open to all and sundry from both areas and Elaine and Tony have also kindly offered us the use of their home for the day as well, so there will be plenty of wine flowing that's for sure. The aim is to have some team games on the beach and have a laugh, but it's really an opportunity for us all to get together again. So be ready to dig out your Speedo's and fluorescent bikinis. If anyone has any other good ideas as to what we can do on the day, then please contact me asap.

There are also plans a foot to arrange a Christmas Party, possibly in Skegness, more details to follow over the coming months, but we are looking at using one of the big hotels who also provide entertainment along with the meal.

Some of you may be aware that an informal Provider Support Group is in the process of getting off the ground. If you're interested in being part of it



Just some of the providers and clients who turned up for the Jigsaw Sunday Lunch at 'The Grange' Pub in Chapel St Leonards.

then you need to call either: Elaine Goodson (Chapel St Leonards), Tina Mellors (Skegness) or Wendy Clifton (Boston). They have all of your numbers, so I'm sure you'll get in contact either way.

I must thank those of you who raised or sponsored money for the 10k road race that I ran in Lincoln in March. Unfortunately, I lost to Steve Johnson, the Business Manager, and I ended up having my legs waxed in public shortly after. I can definitely say, I'm glad I'm not a woman, because I couldn't go through that again. However, saying that I'm getting use to the silky smooth feeling and I do look good in a pair of 10 Denier tights...don't ask!!!

For those of you in the Boston area, a bowling night has been arranged for Friday 30th May @ 6pm (flyers to follow shortly). If you're interested then let either myself or Lisa know as we need to book lanes. Thank you to those of you who attended the pub meal at 'The Moon Under The Water' early on in February. I know it was dark and cold but at least we all know each other a little better now.

Poems

by Diane Everitt

Poem on Magpies

One magpie is for a boy in blue and happy joyful,
 Two magpie is for a girl in pink and pretty and happy smile,
 Three magpie is for peace and joy and courage and is to fly
 in peace,
 Four magpie is for gladness and harmony and peace in
 your mind,
 Five magpie is for hope in heaven and to follow
 white angels,
 Six magpie do join together and bring us luck and to share
 each precious time together,
 Seven magpie is day of week and make sure is safe and
 happy in our own mind,
 Eight magpie are free to fly around in sky in there free time
 and be happy together,
 Nine magpie like garden and sit there and nice to see,
 Ten magpie altogether is good and make time for self and fly
 away in there own time.

Poem on Candle

A candle is made from wax and get when baptism in church
 from priest
 And can light your candle for a baby incase don't know what
 to say at anytime and we have candles on your birthday and
 put on your cake
 And blow candle out to make a wish and these come true
 And can get candles in little glass vase with name on
 And I got one with Diane on and sisters also
 And candle with my birth sign on Aries
 And I like them a lot because of my family
 And candles come in all colours now
 And can get special candles
 With different saying wrote on them and there meaning
 And I especially do like candles at Christmas time because
 look nice
 On windowsill and I like to see candy candles at
 Christmas because
 Are nice to get for yourself for gifts and candles are nice
 to keep.

Poem on Horses

A horse is big because do have long legs
 And we can ride a horse
 And horses like to live in a stable or outside in a big field
 But must have a gate
 And a horse does like apples and straw
 And there hair comb as well
 And a horse wear four horse shoes to protect there feet
 And horses run in races to win ribbons and a cup
 And a horse is very intelligent animal
 And there is a lot different kind of horse to see all
 over the world
 And we have a horse and carriage
 It was to get around in
 And sometimes I would like to see a horse because
 I like them
 Also and like to ride a horse sometime in future
 If not like to see them very soon if possible because I like
 horses a lot.

Poem on friendship

Friendship is what we have when got a good friend
 And share secrets with
 And you can take care of a friend if need your kindness
 And if are very good friendship with each other will always
 be here for you
 And you will be there for your friend also
 And can buy friend a friendship necklace or ring
 And talk to a friend about secrets
 You have must not break you trust because true friends don't
 do this to you if care for you
 And I like all my friends a lot but my best friends are my
 mum and dad
 Because love them both
 And friendship is very important to have and share
 with others
 All are friends also and I have loads of different friends in
 my life now
 And this make me happy so does new friends have
 now in my life.

Poem on snowdrops

We have snowdrops when it snows
 They come from the sky and snow is white
 And can make snowman and snowballs
 And children like to play in snow because have fun
 And if we get lots of snow in Switzerland
 And there have snow slopes and go skiing and if there is
 mountains the snow drops fall from the top
 And snow is nice to see at Christmas time
 And we can buy snow shaker at Christmas too
 But don't see snow now only on your Christmas cards
 And snow is nice but cold as well
 And I hope to see snow again soon because nice to see at
 Christmas time
 Because I think Christmas is not the same without snow on
 the ground and grass and all the rooftop
 Because look nice when white all over the place and we have
 a snow queen.

The Race The Challenge The Results

Back in January 2008 the gauntlet was thrown down; the originator of the challenge is hotly disputed. Steve and Dean agreed to run the Lincoln 10K Fun Run on March 30th to raise funds for ASA. Their biggest incentive to train and win was the fact that the forfeit for the loser was to have his legs waxed.

The mind games began between January and race day as weekly updates on times achieved during training were reported. As Race day approached the female members of staff were keen to let both Steve and Dean know just how painful it would be if they lost.

The day of the Race arrived and Steve and Dean travelled to Lincoln with their families for support and some very noisy members of staff (well Jayne was one of them) to support them as well. As they jogged down to the start the nerves began to show but the "friendly" banter from staff supporters probably didn't help.

As the race started and Steve and Dean ran past their vociferous supporters both were all smiles and waving for the camera. However at 5K the mood was very different. The supporters were more raucous with their support but the smiles on the faces of Dean and Steve had been replaced by pain and concentration, both just willing the end to come. Steve admits to thinking all the way round that Dean was just behind him and there was no way he was letting Dean pass him (well Steve has got the hairiest legs so had more to lose).



At the end of the race Steve was crowned the victor but congratulations go to both Dean and Steve on a great achievement.



Lisa agreed to carry out the deed (but I think she enjoyed herself far too much) and with a pint for Dutch courage Dean clambered on the bed for the torture to begin, he was also kept well supplied with Jack Daniels & Coke for the duration of his ordeal. Several members of staff and other friends and family of ASA chipped into the Fund and came to watch Dean's suffering to ensure it was not without reward. He also had to endure Trixie, Sally and his wife Althea tearing off a strip of his leg hair. Well done to Dean for being such a good sport and we promise not to mention it again (NOT)!

The date for the forfeit was set for Tuesday 8th April and despite constant ribbing from most of his colleagues at work Dean gallantly arrived to suffer the pain of having his legs waxed. Steve sportingly offered to have one small patch of his leg waxed as support to Dean.

To date this has raised around £230 with some sponsorship money still to come in; we are hoping to have raised around £700. If anyone has sponsorship money still to send or would like to make a donation please send this to ASA at Sleaford asap.



Finance Information

by Steve Johnson, Business Manager

Hi everyone as it is the beginning of a new financial year I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to provide details of the new invoice / payment schedule for providers together with confirmation of the new charges taking effect from the 7th April 2008.

2008/2009 Provider Invoice Schedule

Period Covered		Invoice Due to Sleaford by	Payment due by
From	To		
30.03.08	26.04.08	28.04.08	05.05.08
27.04.08	24.05.08	26.05.08	02.06.08
25.05.08	21.06.08	23.06.08	30.06.08
22.06.08	19.07.08	21.07.08	28.07.08
20.07.08	16.08.08	18.08.08	25.08.08
17.08.08	13.09.08	15.09.08	22.09.08
14.09.08	11.10.08	13.10.08	20.10.08
12.10.08	08.11.08	10.11.08	17.11.08
09.11.08	06.12.08	08.12.08	15.12.08
07.12.08	03.01.09	05.01.09	12.01.09
04.01.09	31.01.09	02.02.09	09.02.09
01.02.09	28.02.09	02.03.09	09.03.09
01.03.09	28.03.09	30.03.09	06.04.09

Supporting People Payment Schedule

Period Covered		Payment due by
From	To	
31.03.08	27.04.08	31.03.08
28.04.08	25.05.08	28.04.08
26.05.08	22.06.08	26.05.08
23.06.08	20.07.08	23.06.08
21.07.08	17.08.08	21.07.08
18.08.08	14.09.08	18.08.08
15.09.08	12.10.08	15.09.08
13.10.08	09.11.08	13.10.08
10.11.08	07.12.08	10.11.08
08.12.08	04.01.09	08.12.08
05.01.09	01.02.09	05.01.09
02.02.09	01.03.09	02.02.09
02.03.09	29.03.09	02.03.09

EXTENDED STAY INTRODUCTORY VISITS

All Introductory Visits £34.40 per night.

EXTENDED STAY PROVIDER MILEAGE

ASA will pay provider mileage for training and agreed visits at the rate of 40p per mile.

Providers can charge a maximum to clients for client specific mileage as detailed below:

Provider Vehicle CC	Rate per Mile
451cc – 999cc	22p
1000cc – 1199cc	25p
1200cc+	30p

CLIENT PERSONAL ALLOWANCE

GENERAL £40.00 per week minimum

For those clients in full time employment an additional £25.00 per week has been agreed for clients who work 10 hours or more per week, i.e. £65.00 per week. Those who work between 1-9 hours per week should receive an additional £10.00 per week, i.e. £50.00 per week personal allowance

EXTENDED STAY PLACEMENT CHARGE

Extended Stay weekly placement charges as detailed below:

Band 1 (Registered Category) - Placement Charge £311.00 per week

Band 2 (Unregistered Category) - Where the personal care criteria are **not** met and the Community Care Assessment (CCA) **assesses** the need as long term: - **Placement Charge £253.00 per week**

Band 3 (Extended Stay - towards independence) - Where the C.C.A assesses the needs for resettlement/independent living:- **Placement Charge £260.00 plus per week (depending on C.C.A requirements)**

RESPITE STAY PLACEMENT CHARGE

Band 1 (Registered Category)
Placement Charge
£296.00 per week or £42.29 per night

Band 2 (Unregistered Category B) (extra/more complex needs)
Placement Charge
£268.00 per week or £38.28 per night

Band 3 (Unregistered Category A)
Placement Charge
£253.00 per week or £36.14 per night

A 5% increase to a rate within a banding for respite to include extra/complex needs. Special rates to be pre-arranged with Care Plan. This MUST be negotiated and agreed in advance of the placement.

RESPITE STAY FOR ADULTS SUPPORTING ADULTS PROVIDERS

This rate is charged when ASA Providers request respite stays from other ASA Providers. This charge is with or without day care.

Registered Category

Placement Charge
£268.00 per week £38.28 per night

Unregistered Category

Placement Charge
£232.00 per week £33.14 per night

DAY TIME PROVISION

This service provides a programme of activity designed to meet the assessed needs of the client to achieve agreed goals. These programmes may include resettlement, independent and community living skills, teaching of life skills, leisure and recreations activities and other special interests.

The DTP hourly rate is linked to Local Government SCP 17 for relief workers and may change in line with Lincolnshire County Council pay increases. DTP mileage rates are linked to Local Government casual user mileage rates and may change in line with Lincolnshire County Council rate increases.

Alternatively Inland Revenue recommended rates (40p for the first 10,000 miles and 25p thereafter) can be adopted by individual employees (employees wishing to adopt this rate should notify the Sleaford office as soon as possible).

All out of pocket expenses incurred during the DTP contract should be agreed at the pre-contract meeting by the Client, Family Carer, Referring Social Worker, DTP and Adults Supporting Adults Worker.

Finally could I also remind all Day Time Providers to send in their timesheets / mileage claim forms so they reach Sleaford Head Office by the 2nd day of each month (or nearest working day), for your own benefit you may wish to send in timesheets and any other important paperwork by recorded delivery.

AT HOME DAY SERVICE SPECIAL NEEDS RATE

(e.g. Dementia)

SESSIONAL RATE

£32.36 per person per day
(e.g.: service for 2 persons = £64.72 per day)

Mileage for drivers within At Home Day Care is payable at 50p per mile. This is to recognise and reflect the special assistance required by the user group within this service.

A fee of £3.50 is payable to the At Home Day Carer by the client for lunch.

Steve Johnson, Business Manager



My Life

by Brenda Simpkins from Spalding

My Life by Brenda Simpkins from Spalding

My name is Brenda and for the past 6 years I have lived with my carers, Sue and Alan, as part of the Adults Supporting Adults Scheme.

At home we have a dog called Sasha who I am very fond of. I look after my own room. Sue and Alan have supported me to be able to cook myself a simple meal, use the washing machine, enabled me to learn the skills to use pedestrian crossings and to travel into Spalding and home again on the local buses.

I go to work in the Red Cross Charity shop and the Air Ambulance Shop. I have been awarded a Certificate for 5 years service at the Red Cross Shop.

Every year we go on nice holidays and I have been on holidays to Italy, Spain, Devon, Yorkshire and Norfolk.

I enjoy helping in the garden at home, going for meals with friends and the extended family, going line dancing with friends and swimming regularly. I go to the Gateway Club and Friends Group every week.

This year I am going with Sue and her mum to Yorkshire and to Butlins with Sue and the grandchildren. I am also going on the Friends holiday with Sue and Alan and the Friends Group in September to Hothorpe Hall.

I go to Church regularly and often help with the teas and coffees. Last year I was baptised and we had a party. We also had a family party for my 60th Birthday. Sue and Alan support me to keep in touch with my brother, Roger and his Carer Kath.

Our Area Supervisor, Sally, visits us regularly to make sure everything is going alright and I have a review once a year with my Social Worker.



Profile on Providers

John & Sally Smith

We live at Saltfleetby, some ten miles east of Louth, ³/₄ of a mile from the sea and six miles from Mablethorpe.

Saltfleetby is a small village, with one pub come shop, one working church and several redundant ones. We have an elderly village hall, but a shared venture between the village and a local football club is presently under construction.

Our family consists of four grown up children, six grandchildren, and Sally's elderly mother who lives with us. Also living with us we have Robin, who has been with us six years, and Jane who has been with us for nearly two years. Both Robin and Jane attend day centres in Louth.

Sally and I have worked for ASA and its predecessors for almost eleven years. Prior to this we helped with a scheme for the Homeless in Louth, based on the churches in Louth.

Sally previously worked for twenty five years as an Estate Agent, initially with her own business then with a large regional firm, also has experienced running her own pre school playgroup.

I previously had 35 years working in a variety of care roles, residential and non residential. I currently work in the ASA's Day time provision along with our residential care.

Until three years ago Sally and I enjoyed spending our spare time with our animals, mainly horses which we bred and competed, also dogs, cats, chickens, and a variety of smaller animals and birds. Age has now crept up on our animals and we are considerably downsized in that dept!

My Life

by Chistine Gabbitass from Mablethorpe

I have lived in Mablethorpe for 16 years, 13 of these I spent at Boulevard House. In 2004 I moved in with a local family and started my adult placement. This helped me develop independence as I was able to go out and meet friends and family on my own. They also helped me manage my personal finance.

In September 2006 I moved into my very own 1 bedroom flat and have since moved again to a new 2 bedroom bungalow where I live independently with minimum support. I am very happy and have grown in confidence since living on my own and although I miss my friends at Boulevard house, the move was the best thing I ever did.



Christine looking as happy as ever.

Profile on Karen McNulty

New Area Manager (pictured far right on front cover)

Hello everyone. My name is Karen McNulty, and I am the new Area Manager for Lincoln and Gainsborough. On my first day Dean gave me the opportunity to write a profile about myself for Jigsaw. I've since realised that he gives this "opportunity" to everyone, I think it's in the hope that he'll get enough material for the next issue!! Only joking Dean.

Well I've now been here for 12 days – is it really only that long – it feels like I've been here forever – but that's a positive point – everyone has been so supportive and I feel really at home already – Thanks everyone.

I guess as this is a profile about me I better tell you a bit about myself. I qualified as a learning disability nurse in 1994, and since then I have been working in Spalding. I began with the NHS, but over the course of time we moved away from the NHS and became part of an organisation providing social support to adults with Learning Disabilities. The job evolved around me and at the point when I left I was managing 5 services which housed 13 clients, supporting the staff teams within these services. Hopefully I have developed enough skills during these years to give me a good start in my new post, but I'm looking forward to learning lots more.

Outside of work I am kept very busy by my 3 children, boys aged 10 and 9, and a 9yr old girl. The children are very active, so with football, netball, gymnastics and martial arts fitting in with homework there isn't a lot of time left for me. I am an assistant guider with 1st Wyberton guide unit, close to Boston, where I live. This has given me some fantastic opportunities over the years, I have been an active member of the movement since I was 7yrs old, and my kids are now involved in Brownies, Cubs and Scouts. My partner is an avid cyclist and has recently got me interested in this too. We try and find more interesting places to cycle because Boston tends to be a bit flat. We also swim every week. That's as much exercise as I can manage though – so I don't think I'll be taking part in the next 10K run. I'm a football fan, Liverpool has been my team for as long as I can remember, and my TV is almost permanently tuned into Sky sports. I also enjoy cooking, and I don't get too many complaints about what I produce, so I guess I can't be too bad at it.

I hope that's enough info about me. I'm looking forward to meeting lots more of you. As I said earlier – Thank you for all the support I've received so far – especially to Dean – who is leading me through my induction.



Karen McNulty

The Night Before Christmas

by Maria Sleight from Digby

Twas the night before Christmas at Santa's workshop in Digby. Colin, Maria, Kevin, Nicky and their friends were getting ready for their yearly fundraising event for the local school. At five o'clock, Mr & Mrs Santa, the

elves, snowman and carol singers set off to deliver presents to the children. A treat for the adults, sherry and a mince pie. Robert played on his accordion, so everyone joined in singing Christmas carols.



"I wish this bus would hurry up.... I'm freezing". Maria and the gang at Xmas.



Nicky Reeves just after being told that Christmas has been cancelled.

Hayley and John meet Baby Grace

Hello there, I'm Hayley Nixon and I work as a day time provider in the Skegness area. I'm still fairly new to the job and am still learning something new as each day passes – as well as making a few mistakes along the way!

What have I learnt? I have learned very quickly to appreciate the simple things I take for granted, such as my health, independence and freedom – all of which could be snatched at the drop of a hat.....and mistakes? Doing 'too' much for people can be as debilitating as any type of disability and can be looked on as a form of stealing independence where it's most needed. Day time providers and clients share tremendous journeys together full of highs, lows, tears and laughter.

John was my first client, with whom I've experienced all of the above. I have supported John through lots of ups and downs – and I admit he's tested all my abilities as a competent Day time provider!!! John is quite a character to say the least. He's lead an interesting life so far and at one point he was the head gardener at Kew Gardens – impressive eh?

I'm certain that we've got a lot more trials and tribulations to experience yet, but one experience we shared recently will be hard to beat. I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to support John on a trip to meet his new Grand-daughter – Emily Grace (see photo below). As you can see, she is a little GEM and Grand-dad John is as proud as punch. I'd like to say congratulations to Sean and Becky (proud parents) and thanks for allowing me to share a part of such a special moment in your family life. Thanks readers for taking time to read this contribution to the magazine. Hayley x



Film Review - Harry Potter

by Chris Fuller

Happy New Year to all Jigsaw readers and I hope you had a good Christmas. I like to write about the films I have watched and I would like to tell you a bit about Harry Potter.

Harry Potter

J.K. Rowling is the author of a series of books about a boy called Harry Potter who goes to a school of Witchcraft and Wizardry called Hogwarts. So far five of these books have been made into films. They are: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire; Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and the latest one is Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.

Harry Potter is played by Daniel Radcliffe and Hermione Granger, a friend of Harry's is played by Emma Watson. Another friend Ron Weasley is played by Rupert Grint. Others in the cast are: Robbie Coltrane – Hagrid, John Cleese – Sir Geoffrey, the ghost, Richard Harris – Dumbledore, Alan Rickman – Malfoy, Richard Griffiths – Dursley and Julie Walters – Ron's mum. Other members of the cast are dame Maggie smith and Warwick Davis a bank manager at Gringots.

Harry Potter is a boy, who, at the age of 11 comes to learn that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and he possesses magical powers of his own. That is why he has a scar on his forehead shaped like forked lightning.

He gets to know the Weasley family and after a meal with them they go to

the train station to catch the train to Hogwarts. They needed to find platform 9³/₄. They couldn't find it but they saw others running through a wall. Harry realised that it was a magic platform and he needed to use his magic powers. The first time he ran up to the wall with his laden trolley he crashed into it. He had to concentrate very hard and use his powers and eventually made it through the wall onto the platform and onto the train. When they got off the train they got on a boat that took them to Hogwarts. Harry took with him a Snowy white owl that had magical powers of his own.

Some of the scenes I remember are: In the Philosopher's stone when Harry learnt how to fly on his broomstick. One lad's broomstick was out of control and it was funny watching him wizz around and fall to the ground like a stone.

There was a scene with a chess game and the pieces were real people dressed as Samurai Warriors. The two sides were fighting each other and Harry, Hermione and Ron were caught in the cross fire.

In The Prisoner of Azkaban's opening scene at the Dursley's, Dudley's aunt (Pam Ferris) goes to tea, she insults Harry and he casts a spell on her. This makes her blow up like a balloon, her buttons pop off and she floats out the window and up into the sky. Harry then decides to leave the Dursley's house, packs his suitcase and waits at the bus stop. While sitting at the bus stop he spots a figure lurking in the hedges and then the bus arrives. The conductor says, "Ere mate, why are you down in the dumps? Why not

come on board, I'll take you where you want to go." Harry asks to be dropped off at the "leaky cauldron", a pub along the way.

Later in the Prisoner of Azkaban when the pupils at Hogwarts are in the hall they learn some more magic. Professor Snape (Alan Rickman) was turned into a spider and then a snake; they had to all say ridiculous (the magic word) and then he changed back to himself again.

All the films have happy endings like in the Prisoner of Azkaban when Harry fights the demons using his magic powers. He then flies into the sunset on his broomstick ready for the next adventure.

I haven't seen the Order of the Phoenix yet but I saw a clip on television and look forward to seeing the DVD.

You might like these jokes.

What do you call a penguin the Sahara Desert?

Lost!

Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Why did the man drown in his muesli?
Because he was dragged down by a strong currant!

Chris Fuller



Where to Contact Adults Supporting Adults

Railton House
Sleaford Business Park
Sleaford
Lincs NG34 7EQ
Tel: 01529 416270

156 Trinity Street
Gainsborough
Lincs DN21 1BR
Tel: 01522 555167

The Vista
Church Gate
Spalding
Lincs PE11 2RA
Tel: 01522 555272

County Hall
Boston
Lincs PE21 6LX
01522 554339

Orchard House
Orchard Street
Lincoln LN5 1BA
Tel: 01522 554189

Eastfield House
Eastfield Road
Louth
Lincs LN11 7AN
Tel: 01522 554713

Preparation for the Skills for Care Conference

by Sam Jervis

On Tuesday 15th January Skylark taxis picked me and 3 other clients up. We all went to the ASA offices in Sleaford. When we arrived we met up with more clients who were from the Sleaford area. We had a meeting with Dawn to discuss what we were going to say at the conference at Hemswell Court. In the meeting we designed two Day Time Providers, Dawn drew two body shapes on flipchart paper and wrote on them what we suggested would make a good DTP and a bad DTP. I thought the ASA offices were very smart,

On Tuesday 5th February one of the Handsome Cabs drivers picked me and the same 3 clients up who went to Sleaford. We had Handsome Cabs because the driver was doing it as a favour for Skylark. We all went to the "Outcomes For Growth" conference at Hemswell Court. When we arrived we all went to collect our badges. One of the managers for ASA came to meet us. Before the conference started we had time to look at the Exhibition stands and we also had time for Refreshments. The conference started at 9:45 with an introduction from the Chairperson from the Workforce Steering Group. This was followed by two presentations one about "The Seven Outcomes For Adult Social Care" and another about "The Person Centred Model of Dementia".

After the presentations finished we went into a different room to talk to two groups of people about what ASA do and why it is important for clients to get involved in the interview process

when interviewing for new Day Time Providers. It is important for clients to get involved in the interview process because it is the clients who the Day Time Providers will be working with. At the end of our discussions I went through an exercise which looks at what makes a good Day Time Provider with assistance from the other clients. After we finished we had a buffet lunch. After lunch we listened to two more presentations. One on "The Seven Outcomes and what these mean for Lincolnshire" and another one "Introduction to the Person Centred Approach" After the presentations had finished we went into another room and had a chat instead of taking part in the team exercise.



From right to left: Sam, Chris, Brenda, Philip and Sharon.

WARNING

IF YOU SEE THIS MAN DO NOT APPROACH. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH MONEY. HE HAS BEEN KNOWN IN THE PAST TO PINCH PENNIES AND CRUNCH NUMBERS. IF YOU SEE HIM PLEASE CALL THIS NUMBER 01529 416270. I MUST REITERATE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO STAY AWAY AS HE IS LIKELY TO BORE YOU TO TEARS WITH ACCOUNTING. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN CASUALTIES AT HEAD OFFICE AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS.



Hello

by Maxine Wade from Mablethorpe

Hello Everyone,

My name is Maxine. I would like to say that I think the idea of having people who can come and take you out is great. Being blind I need help to keep safe when I go out.

I live with a very caring family but going out with different people makes a nice change. I love making new friends and trying new things. So my ASA worker, Margaret, who is a real star, has helped me find a local

tea dance, which is held at the community centre. We enjoy the music and having a dance helps me to keep fit. Everyone is very friendly and we have parties at special times such as Christmas, Easter and birthdays.

I have had quite a few health problems but I am getting better all the time and looking forward to doing even more activities such as walking and swimming.

Computer Wiz

Three cheers for three of our clients for achieving their City and Guilds ICT and in house certificate at Boston Haven Online computer course.

On Tuesday 18th December 2007, a presentation was held where Nick Saunders received three in house certificates in internet access and application, using and applying a mouse and accessing various software packages. He also received his entry level one pass in ICT Skills for Life [entry 1] dealing with weather by accessing word and excel.

Mick Robinson also achieved three in house certificates in the same three subjects as Mick. He is studying for his level one City and Guilds along with Phillip Hodgkinson. Phillip has achieved the same in house certificates but has incorporated his own project into the general programme. This allows Phillip to do his voluntary work with the West End Cinema Club in producing an events sheet that informs other members of the choice they have in seeing future films. This events sheet called for Phillip access and input all relevant

information and learn via experience.

Nick said he'd like to add a few words. Since I started my computer course at the Haven Online College, I am carrying on with my level 2 innumeracy and literacy on the computer and I am enjoying it very much. I have learnt new skills and I am more confident now and nor nervous. I have learnt how to use the Internet and got a lot of information from the Internet. Andy sits near me but helps me only when I ask, I do it by myself and pretend Andy's not there. So three big cheers for Nick, Mick and Phillip for achieving so much last year. **Bye for now Andrew from Boston.**



Director Profile on Pam Railton

Hi my name is Pam Railton and I became a member of the Board of Directors of ASA last year. Some of you will remember me as Manager of the Adult Placement Scheme. Although now happily retired I am delighted to be back as part of ASA

When I worked with people with learning difficulties in the 1980's, I began to look for alternative ways in which they might live as an alternative to continued institutionalised living. Of course at that time, there was very little recognition of what people with a learning disability could achieve. However I was not convinced that this was the case. Indeed what has now been achieved has more than convinced me that I was right.

With another Social Worker, Pauline Gregory, we were afforded the

opportunity to embark on what has now become the current organisation which has provided what has become widely respected as a means of providing a person centred service of independent living.

Despite many early struggles at the beginning through dint of hard earnest work by staff and care providers, I can now hardly believe what has been achieved. We now have — professional staff , — providers and – service users.

Finally, what really encourages me today is the overwhelming confidence that surrounds the scheme that assures its future as a valuable service which has a solid place in the life of the community.

Respite Provision

Hello everyone, has Spring sprung or is Winter still lingering, all I know that time has really flown. I have now been with ASA for nearly 10 months and my head has been aching taking in all the information needed to develop the respite service. I have become very familiar with the process of completing new provider referrals, which leads me nicely into welcoming Marie and Bill Duce from Louth into our scheme as respite providers.

At present there is a steady flow of enquiries and referrals for respite provision coming in, and I am hopeful that the service will continue to progress steadily as the year rolls on.

I am always on the look out to recruit new respite providers, so if you know of anyone who may be more than interested, please ask them to contact me.

Finally I would like to use this opportunity in thanking all providers for their hard work and support in providing the fantastic respite opportunities for both the clients and carers that we as a scheme support. I look forward to working with you all during the future months as the respite provision develops.

Richard Brown-Warr
Area Manager Respite

Well I Didn't Know That

Since we're all different, our interests and lives will also be. This column will be for you to tell us something about yourself that we would be interested in knowing. It could be a hobby, a job, a funny thing that happened to you. Maybe a dream you have or hope to achieve...everything is worth knowing, so put your thinking cap on and get in touch. So as to get the ball rolling I'll tell you a story, are you comfy, then I'll begin.

When I was working at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden, I was fortunate in being able to see and sometimes chat to well known artists. The best place for this was in the staff refectory, after all everyone needed to eat. From the many Celebs there, I saw Pavarotti, [Dame] Kiri [Tikanawa], [Placido] Domingo and many others too numerous to mention. I actually sat next to Kiri once and she told us all about New Zealand and her family back there. It was always interesting to see that the biggest scoffers were not the ones you would expect, but that's another tale.

A few times I was up close to the Queen Mum, she was smaller than you'd think and the diamonds and tiaras never sparkled enough for me, she was definitely from a bygone age. One of the perks of working there was that we had access to places not normally accessible to the public. Many a time we had a cuppa in the royal box while watching a dress rehearsal or borrowed costumes from wardrobe for fancy dress parties. It was a great place to work, very theatrical and over the top but not of this world. Well I bet you didn't know that about me!

Cheers Andrew Hawkes, Boston Day Time Provider.

At Home Day Service

The At Home Day Service was originally set up in 2000 with monies from the Carers grant.

This service was set up in the Grantham area, to provide an alternative to traditional day services for persons who have dementia or mental health needs who would benefit from smaller groups.

The service is delivered in a provider's home on a sessional basis. The sessions run from 10am – 3pm. Providers support up to 3 clients per day.

During the last 12 months this service has increased by 100% and has also developed into the Sleaford area.

Dementia services are high on the political agenda at the moment, with the government finally recognising the lack of services for people with dementia, and their carers.

This is an exciting time for the At Home Day Service, with a steady increase in referrals and development of this service in other areas. We are looking at ways this service can support people who are under 65 with a diagnosis of dementia or dual diagnosis i.e. a person with a learning disability who has developed dementia.

As with all services provided by ASA, there is a matching process between the client and provider. All providers have monthly support from an ASA worker and are able to contact a member of the team at any time. All providers undergo an assessment, CRB check and a role-play to assess their ability to provide this service. Provider's homes undergo as health and safety check to make sure it meets relevant requirements.

This service is valuable to clients, providing social contact and a structure to the day. The service also provides family members with a welcome break from their caring role for a few hours, safe in the knowledge that their loved one is in a safe, caring environment.

For further information on becoming a provider or accessing the service please contact Jackie Quant at ASA on 01529 416270 or email Jackie.quant@asaorg.co.uk