



Providing Opportunities
for People with
Learning Disabilities

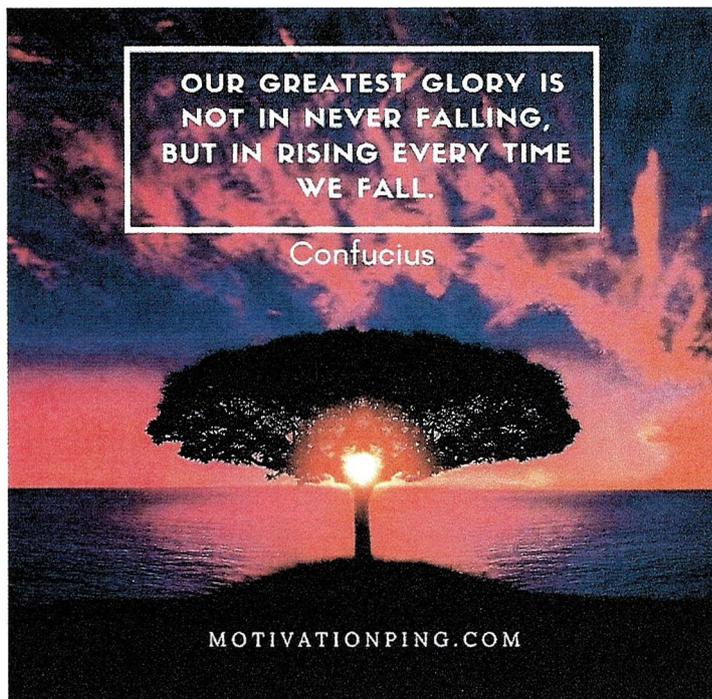
THE JPK NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Patron: Dame Jane Gow DBE

Sponsored by Ann and Robert Lindsay

The JPK has experienced a very difficult six months, like very many charities and individuals, not only locally, nationally, but across the world. Did we ever think that Covid19 would last so long or effect so many people? The JPK Palm Court Tea Room had to close its doors at the end of March with staff on furlough and our valuable volunteers and students unable to continue. All our planned fundraising events for the year had to be cancelled with the result that we have had to manage with no income but having to continue to pay our overheads.



During this period we have been ever grateful to our wonderful supporters who have continued to donate on their regular basis and we have been in receipt of additional donations and selling our delightful home-made cards and preserves, by order. We are so grateful for this wonderful support.

Also during this period we have worked hard to prepare the Centre to comply with all the Covid19 guidelines for social distancing and the

additional health and hygiene measures and planning for re-opening at the

earliest opportunity. Our very grateful thanks to many of our volunteers who assisted in this endeavor.

Regretfully, due to the uncertainties of Covid19 and being unclear when we could re-open we had to make the difficult decision to make our staff redundant in August.

Like 'Phoenix we are rising from the ashes' and have re-branded to The Old Town Café and opened our doors again on the 7th October with an excellent interim Management Team, which includes an Executive Chef and Front of House Supervisor, which also includes some of our wonderful volunteers who have returned to help us.

I have been asked many times when our Students can return? This is obviously one of our main priorities but we have to insure their safety whilst Covid is still prevalent.

We applied to the Covid Lottery Fund for a grant to be able to employ 1-1 Mentors for our students so that they can return for 'work experience' maintain their skills learnt, until they can resume their training in April 2021. I am delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application and we are currently advertising and recruiting for care support. We are extremely grateful to the Covid19 Lottery Fund for their support.

We opened, as previously stated, on the 7th October and we were delighted with the support of so many of our past customers with a 'full house' and this has continued, which has included new customers.

Building and Refurbishment to the Disabled Toilet

We have been considering for some time the need to update our Disabled Toilet facilities to make them Accessible and Inclusive for 'seen and unseen' disabilities. The closure, 'every cloud has a silver lining' was an ideal opportunity to undertake this (as to be sure we would have needed to close the Centre for this work) and this would have disrupted the business. We have indeed been fortunate to have managed to acquire all the necessary funding for this and work has been completed. We are extremely grateful to:

East Dean and Friston Parish Council

Mrs A Lacy Tate Charitable Fund

Upperton Ward Councillors – Devolved Budget

Old Town Councillors – Devolved Budget

Eastbourne Borough Council - Inclusion Fund

The Stable Trust

The John Jackson Charitable Trust

Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council

Mr and Mrs Jackie and Roger Bevan, all of whom have made this possible for the total cost of £10,500.

With the professional assistance of Sovereign Construction our newly refurbished Accessible and Inclusive facility has been completed.

The Daisy Chain Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop continues to be a wonderful source of income and our grateful thanks to all those that donate their unwanted gifts and items on a regular basis and all those that purchase. Our special thanks to Doreen who undertakes the pricing and display, which is becoming almost a full time commitment, due to our items flying off the shelves.

During 'lockdown' Doreen has re-organised and moved all the display shelving and this has assisted in having more discrete areas for social distancing.

No doubt, and I am ever hopeful that you have been collecting your unwanted gifts during Covid19 for the JPK, should you wish to 'tidy your houses' and your donations can be left at Reception. I thank you for your continuing support.

Sale of Cards.

Maureen and Gina have continued to make cards for sale and I have been selling them from my home address and business has been quite brisk. Maureen actually was commissioned to make two 'special' cards, which resulted in a wonderful donation of £50 per card! These could be considered as the most expensive cards on the planet!

Cards are now on sale at the Old Town Café.

Les Conserve Artisanales



This continues to be an ongoing success, so much so that Katie and Patrick work every Monday and Tuesday, in the Training Kitchen to keep up the stocks.

The stock stands at:

Salsa – Hot Tomato, Onion and Pepper
Chutneys – Banana Pepper and Tomato, Spiced Parsnip and Carrot,

Blatjang South African Date, Rhubarb and Orange, Courgette, Apple and Mint, Spiced Tomato, Fig and Apple, Beetroot and Horseradish, Marrow and Squash, Green Tomato and Apple and Sweet Pepper, Grape and Apple.

Marmalades and Jams

There's a choice for you!

THE OLD TOWN CAFÉ IS NOW OPEN FROM WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY WITH A 'SPECIAL' ROAST SUNDAY LUNCH TO 'DIE FOR'! An excellent thought for not having to prepare, cook or wash up and be able to relax on a Sunday!

“ We have fallen during the last seven months but we are now rising again”!

NEW TRUSTEES:

Sadly three of our Trustees had to resign in the last three months for personal and work related issues. We thank them for their support during their tenure especially Mark Bennett who has been a long standing Trustee for many years.

I am however, pleased to announce that we have recruited two new Trustees:

Mrs Sue Horsman Lead Role Finance Director.

Mr Ray McGeary Lead Role Human Resources/Safeguarding

Continuing Trustees are:

Mrs Christine Haniver Lead Role Law/Legal Matters

Dr Patrick Parker Non Exec Officer Lead Role Corporate Compliance

Mrs Jill Parker MBE Chairman Lead Role Project Co-ordinator

Mr Adrian White Health and Safety

FUTURE PLANS:

Supported Living Centre:

During 'lock down' we have also been working hard on developing our much needed Supporting Living Centre which is in dire need of being developed as soon as possible. With support of CPL Architects and Sovereign Construction we have been liaising and discussing ways to reduce the capital costs. We have come up with a plan to reduce the costs by the elimination of the previous excavation of the ground but still provide the eight self-

contained en-suite apartments and communal rooms. This will enable the costs to be within budget (funds already raised) and the support of some Grant Making Trusts who have intimated that we can apply when we have 50% - 80% of the capital required. On- going work, but looking very positive.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET WOODS.

It is with great sadness I have learnt of the death of Margaret, who has been a long standing supporter of the JPK for many years. Un-known to me she made a legacy several years ago on her death to the JPK and I have been notified by her Solicitor that we are likely to receive £77,000 from her estate in the near future. During her life she supported the JPK and at her death she continued to do so. God bless you Margaret, you have made a difference and this legacy will be attributed to the Supported Living Accommodation.

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS:

As previously mention fundraising over the last 7 months has had to cease and it is unlikely to commence again for the foreseeable future. However, we are eternally grateful to the following for their donations during the last period.

- Mr & Mrs R Lindsay
- Miss P Adlam
- Mrs S Jeffreys
- Mrs M Campbell
- Mrs S Smith
- E & D Houghton
- Mrs N Page
- Mr & Mrs Rayner
- Just Giving
- Mr M Miller
- Bridgemere Centre
- Mrs J Guthrie
- M I Fusiarska
- S Grace
- Paypal
- Chris Coupe
- Toni Morgan
- Mrs J Bevan
- Willingdon Flower Club
- Mrs H Sogno
- Dr P Parker
- J & T Dunford
- P & D Siggs
- A & C Whatford
- Clients Deposit
- Mr & Mrs T Deadman
- Mrs W Devonshire
- M & N Clive-Matthews
- Easyfundraising
- Giving Com Ltd
- Miss L Flemming
- 3MMMs
- Jon Curtis
- Cecily Scott

- Sharon Jones
- Hailsham Roadways
- Ricochet Signs

M Clive-Matthews
A Sargant

COLLECTING TINS

- Triangle Co-op

Lindleys The Jewellers

GIFT AID

My grateful thanks to everyone who notifies me when making a donation if they are eligible for Gift Aid. This is a wonderful bonus at the end of our financial year.

In May we received our Gift Aid Tax Reclaim for Gift Aided Donations and the Gift Aided Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) from HMRC which amounted to £3,595.50. A wonderful bonus.

Please remember you have to pay tax above the donation that you make, and that Council Tax and VAT are not included. For new subscribers the JPK needs to receive a signed Gift Aid Form which can be found at the rear of this Newsletter or by downloading the Gift Aid Form from our website.

www.thejpkproject.co.uk

Please also let me know if you are no longer eligible for us to claim Gift Aid
Thank you for your continuing support.

Used Ink Cartridges:

Jenny Frampton has continued to collect empty ink cartridges, basically any make, but now only the small **square cartridges** that fit in the palm of your hand and she sends them to Recycle4Charity. £1 is donated to the JPK for every cartridge.

Regretfully, Jenny has just learnt that they will not collect mobile phones in the future. So.....please carry on collecting the cartridges as described above and pass the word to friends and family – it will all make a difference. You can deliver to Jill or the JPK or keep until we are all out and about again. We recently received a cheque for £30.00 from Jenny. ***From small acorns grow large oak trees!***

Easy Fundraising Website:

If you shop on line, you can also donate to the JPK by registering with <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/find-a-cause> and select JPK Project. In the search box enter **JPK** – click on **support this cause** and set up the account. A wide range of outlets such as Amazon and John Lewis etc will

donate a small % of the purchase price. It doesn't cost you anything but benefits the JPK.

Give as you Live:

This site was brought to our attention recently by one of our supporters as being another avenue of fundraising when using 'on line' shopping (which we shall all be doing more frequently in the weeks/months ahead). The new site can be found on our website www.thejpkproject.co.uk – click on 'Get Involved' – 'How to donate' and you find 'Give as you Live'. Thank you. It costs the JPK and you nothing. Bonus!

Used Stamps:

Isobel continues to process our used stamps for which we are extremely grateful. She has now moved to The Harbour and therefore all stamps should be sent or delivered to Jill, or delivered to the JPK Project. (You can post them in our Letter box) Our thanks to Debbie Thursfield who sponsors the envelopes and pays the postage.

Data Protection:

Should you no longer wish to be on our mailing list for Newsletters or Information, either by email or 'snail mail', please contact us and we will delete your contact details from our database. May I assure you that we never pass on any contact details without your personal confirmation that we may so do.

Marketing:

For many years Julie Bennett has been assisting the JPK with marketing the JPK, updating the Website and Facebook and much more, for which we have been extremely grateful. Regretfully, due to her own business work load and by necessity having to assist her husband with his business during the Covid pandemic, she was unable to assist with marketing the JPK for re-opening which was essential.

For due diligence it was also considered necessary for the JPK to have control of all its systems, although some departments can obviously be delegated.

When planning for the re-opening it was deemed necessary to re-brand the JPK Palm Court Tea Room and we sought the advice of a world-wide Marketing Consultant, Jamie Clive-Matthews, who undertook research which

showed that 'The Old Town Café' name would eventually have a high profile on google analytics. (All beyond me!)

We are extremely grateful to Claire Horsman, Dark Horse Marketing and Design Consultants who has volunteered to manage and update our website, facebook (which she responds to on a daily basis) media, news bulletins and much more. She liaises with everyone on the Team on a regular basis.

This certainly releases me from all these undertakings.

Our grateful thanks Claire – welcome to the Team.

Graphic Design:

Mick Cooke continues to assist the JPK with all our graphic design when required for posters, fliers, invitations and tickets and everything I ask of him on a voluntary basis. He also comes up with some brilliant ideas for raising the profile of the JPK.

He has currently been very busy designing our new Signs, Logos, Leaflets and a new advertising flag and will shortly be undertaking new Information Leaflets.

Thank you Mick for your continuing support.

IT Support: Nyxicus

Cliff continues to support me and in turn the JPK with all its IT requirements and assistance 'at the drop of a hat' when I get into trouble, either by Team Viewer or in person!!! All this on a voluntary basis and at no cost to the JPK.

Recently he has installed new equipment at the Community Training Centre which collates all the income and expenditure, stock and supplies to show transparency on a daily, weekly and monthly basis which assists everyone but especially the Finance Director.

Our grateful thanks.

IN SUMMARY:

The last six months have been really 'tough' for the JPK. Having to close, furlough our staff, and temporarily say 'au revoir' to our wonderful volunteers and students. Then we had to plan for re-opening (although we didn't know when) and working really hard on cleaning the Centre and making all the arrangements for social distancing and the new hygiene measures. With our financial reserves 'draining away' on standing overheads and no income it was quite a worrying time. We then had to make a sad decision to make all

our staff redundant. This certainly was not a pleasant phase but all due to a small piece of RNA from China, that caused the devastating pandemic, shut the World down and destroyed our dreams.

We are now 'picking up the pieces' and have an interim management team in place, with an excellent Executive Chef and Front of House Supervisor working on a weekly contract. Several of our enthusiastic volunteers have returned and we are currently arranging our Students to return for work experience with a 1-1 mentor to maintain their safety and social distancing, thanks to the Covid Lottery Fund.

We were successful in our application to the National Lottery for a three year funding grant for Training Programs, but we **cannot draw down** this money or commence training again until we are sure that Covid has departed. We are therefore optimistically planning this for April 2021.

Looking on the bright side 'with my glass half full again', since opening on Wednesday 7th The Old Town Café has been really busy and we have been welcoming our past customers and supporters. We have also welcomed 'new faces'.

We are now open from Wednesday to Sunday inclusively, with an excellent Roast Sunday Lunch. One of our booked tables of three have now booked for every Sunday up until Christmas! There's good advertising!

I wish you all well and thank every one of you for your continuing support.

Jill

Jill Parker MBE Chairman to the Trustees and Project Co-ordinator

7 Wannock Avenue, Willingdon, Eastbourne, BN20 9RP

Business Office – 01323 486179 (Answer machine available)

Business Office – 0843 289 3624

Email: jill@thejpkproject.co.uk

Website: www.thejpkproject.co.uk

The Old Town Café: 01323 304591