



ALTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

EDITION No. 10

JANUARY, 2010

MANAGER'S UPDATE

A Very Happy New Year to all our customers and members! We are all pleased to see the back of the snow! Our old boiler died just before Christmas and we were without heating for several weeks. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this difficult period.

We now have a lovely new boiler and things are finally back to normal.

The flooring has now been replaced in the Members Room and Garden Room following the flood in July last year.

On October 15th we were proud to be involved in the REME 4 Close Battalion Homecoming Parade. Refreshments were provided by Rkadia and the centre was packed with hungry soldiers and their

families.

Two paranormal investigation groups have spent evenings in our building monitoring ghostly goings on!

Fundraising News

Our annual 70's Glam Rock Disco takes place on 6th February from 7pm—11pm. Tickets are £6.00 per person, please ring us 01420 85057 and book your tickets for this fun evening (70's attire is optional).

We are also planning a Psychic Fair on April 24th from 10am—4pm please ring if you wish to book a table for this event.

Catherine (our bar franchisee) held an all day fundraiser for us on 7th November, which was a great success and raised £487.

The Christmas Cracker on Dec 6th raised a fantastic £517.82!

New Building News

Following their latest cabinet meeting EHDC have issued a press release on their website stating that the new building will go ahead on the Lady Place Carpark with the inclusion of a

Theatre style hall for use by the whole community. They will be appointing a Project Manager and the project should now really begin to move forward!

Room Hire News

We are planning to bring out a new range of children's party packages this Spring.

Now that MENCAP are no longer with us we have a room available for long term hire as office space.

We have obtained funding to enable us to purchase a digital projector to add to our room hire equipment.

Maria Elliott

ALTON COMMUNITY CLUB

Once again we have been very busy at the Community Club. We have been out and about a lot; mostly Garden Centres and Tea Rooms and we have been on our annual canal trip. Unfortunately it was a rather dismal day and light rain turned into heavy rain but we still enjoyed ourselves.

For a few weeks we had the help of a young offender who actually brought a lot of laughter to the club, especially when we went to Emsworth on a beautiful day and had ice cream by the water watching the swans and ducks. He has now qualified for an apprenticeship and we wish him all the luck.

The Girl Guides came to wash the minibus for us, but it proved to be a little too high for them to reach the roof. We had a lady come in and try

Indian Head Massage on our Members. This was rather nice and we must do it again.

Our Christmas festivities were a little different this year. We managed one of our meals to the Sun at Bentworth but the snow prevented us from having our meal at O'Connors in Alton. Happy to say that we will be having this 'Christmas' meal on the 2nd February, which will be rather strange. Les Packett came and played the piano for us and we all sang carols, some sang better than others, - well everybody sang better than me!

We had a very unconventional start to the year. Our boiler broke and the building was *freezing* and we had 'the' SNOW. Unfortunately we had to close to our Members for two whole weeks. It was too cold and

too slippery to be safe for them. We are happy to report that things are back to normal and we are looking forward to a fun filled year. Please pop in and see us. Come for a chat, coffee and biscuits. We would love to see you. Hope you all have a wonderful and fulfilling 2010.

Marilyn Archer



Dozens of educational and social activities for our 450 members—contact Peggy Katz on 01420 80923

PLAYGROUP

A Happy New Year and new term for playgroup. Despite the snow and weather related problems, playgroup managed to open it's doors to excited children and, I'm sure, relieved parents, only two days later than planned. Thanks to all the Centre Staff who made this possible in adverse conditions.

Once again the curriculum has been planned to enhance all the children's play, development and learning experiences. The topic for the term is pets, this will act as a springboard for them to explore and extend their knowledge about animals including their own family pets, safety issues concerning animals and generally widen their experiences through visits, visitors to the group, stories, imaginative games and crafts. We have already had great fun constructing and painting a giant dog kennel from cardboard boxes. As well as a great time playing in the snow filled courtyard, building snowmen and snow castles. The fun will continue throughout the term with many planned and, I'm sure, some spontaneous, events adding to the excitement.

Unfortunately this term also sees the sad but hopefully temporary departure of Beckie, as she leaves us at half term to go on maternity leave. Staff and children will all miss her greatly but eagerly await the safe and happy arrival of her baby in March. We are sure to have many visits from Beckie and baby during the summer and look forward to her return in September.

ACA Playgroup is open from 9.15—12.15 Monday—Friday, some places are still available so please call 01420 85057 or pop in for a visit.

Vicky Cox

LEISURE LEARNING

This term got off to a chaotic start with the snow cancelling a lot of the first week of classes, so please check with your tutor when they are having their replacement lessons. We still have some classes which haven't started yet, like Flower Arranging, which starts in February, and many of the classes accept late joiners, so pick up a brochure for details of these and our programme of one day workshops.

If you are a tutor in need of a class or a students with a great suggestion for something new, let us know, we are always open to new suggestions.

Marie Nottridge

**NEXT USER GROUP
FORUM MEETING
FRIDAY 26TH
FEBRUARY, 2010 AT
2.30PM
HERE AT THE CENTRE.
ALL REGULAR USERS
WELCOME.**

RIVER WEY CAFÉ

**Catering for your
courses and events at
ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**OPENING HOURS
8:30am - 4:00pm Mon-Fri
9:00am - 2:00pm Saturdays**



**Café—Eat in or Take Away
Bespoke Cakes for all occasions
We can help you plan and enjoy
your party.**

**Come in and see us for more
ideas.**

Phone 07902 031772

JAM NIGHT

THURSDAYS FROM 7:30 p.m.

**ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
DRUMS & MIKES AVAILABLE**

ALL GENRES WELCOME



LOUNGE BAR

www.myspace.com/loungebar
www.myspace.astra-music-shop

INDOOR MARKET DATES

**Saturdays 10a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
6th Feb, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June**



**Craft, Cards, Woven goods,
Preserves, Jewellery, Books, Plants
and much more . Coffee shop open.
Free Admission, come and browse.**

**PASSPORT
PHOTOGRAPHS
By Wey Valley Cameras**



**Here at Alton Community Centre
Every Tuesday 10:00 -11:00 am**



BOOK STALL

All books 50p . Come and browse our large selection of used books.