

CHALLENGE

NEWSLETTER OF STOCKPORT MENCAP
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NOVEMBER 2022

PROSPECT HOUSE GARDEN GROWS

A remarkable transformation has been seen on the ground to the rear of Prospect House. Pictures speak for themselves but Richard Lewis hard work and that of his colleagues have been recorded and gratefully appreciated.

The early photograph shows the site in 2019 soon after its adoption by Stockport Mencap. The line of fir trees had been removed but it was very obvious there was much to be done.

The new boundary of the proposed garden had yet to be marked out requiring removal of a fair amount of foliage and the old fencing leaving the necessary initial levelling off of the ground.

Throughout the pandemic and the months of lockdown, work has produced the results.



Richard continues:

The work on the accessible garden at the back of Prospect House has continued each weekend, despite rain, wind and even sunny dry weather. The basic construction of the raised beds and beautiful flagging is now completed. The guys have worked really hard and the result is superb standards of build for all to see.

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2.

We are now ready for the planting of the beds and installation of some works of art including a round mosaic in the flags and some fused glass circles, to be fixed to the wall on the left. The boring fence on the right is transformed into a work of art thanks to our artist in residence and it includes a *trompe l'œil*, (a mirror to you and me) which makes the garden look larger than it is.

The latest job is the levelling and resurfacing of the rear carpark so everybody can safely use the new garden. We are hoping to finish the planting in time for an official, celebratory opening of the garden in the Spring of next year. with all our friends and sponsors. Fingers crossed!



Progress has been made. Thanks to all who donated and helped in any way,





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AGM SEPTEMBER 2022

It seems a long time since I have been able to produce my report to an AGM. I think that it is fair to say that our lives have changed in a number of ways during that time. If anything it has highlighted the problems encountered by parents and carers of people with learning difficulties. In order to help our members our committee has been involved in a number of local groups including CALD, Health Equality Group, Partnership Board and the newly formed DPAG (Direct Payments Action Group).

There have been a number of issues around properties where some of our members are housed and the ever present problems regarding finance and support.

One issue that has loomed large is the suspension of Direct Payments by Stockport. Suffice it to say that due to the combined efforts of independent providers and parents together with the threat of court action this decision has been reversed. The current situation is that Direct Payments can be used as before the Council's new policy. There will now be a 3 month's consultation with parents, carers and providers to produce a more equitable policy based on people's needs.

On a lighter and more pleasing note I would like to thank Richard and his colleagues for the wonderful job they have done in creating a garden space for our members to enjoy. The value of the space was made obvious at the recent very successful Gateway Barbecue. Congratulations all round!

With regard to the management of Stockport Mencap there has been a change in the Trusteeship. Paul has resigned as a trustee but I am delighted that he has agreed to continue to do the accounts for the Society. I would like, on behalf of the committee and the members, to thank Paul for his diligent work. There is no doubt that our strong financial policy in these difficult times is due in great measure to his work. We are fortunate that Geraldine has agreed to take his place on the Board of Trustees.

We have been working closely with Supportability to put the maintenance and safety of the building on a firmer and more manageable footing. Hopefully these measures will improve things and we will continue to monitor the situation.

It is good to see signs of the return of normality. The ABC and Gateway clubs are reopening. In addition the Halloween disco and Christmas party are organised which I am sure our members will enjoy.

Finally, as always, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and support during difficult times. It has enabled us to maintain a first class building for those who use it and a delightful garden to enjoy.



Mel Hubbard
Chairman, Stockport Mencap.

4.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES RETURN

Stockport Mencap was pleased to announce that restrictions on social celebrations at Prospect House had been lifted following the two year pandemic. Particularly it was with great joy that members could organise and take part in his year's Halloween Disco .The party took place on Saturday, 22nd October , and a good time was held by all.

Fifty tickets were distributed, impressive decorations that have lain dormant since 2019 were put up to adorn the rooms for the following week. An excellent and profitable tombola was held. A delicious supper of baked potatoes and lasagna was served and, needless to say, there were fantastic costumes. As usual great enjoyment could be derived from trying to guess the identities of some of the individuals hidden by the fancy dress.

A scary night was had by all!





Tuesdays 10.30am Half Moon Lane Recreation Ground(aka Offerton Park)
If you would like to book a place email debra.smith@stockport.gov.uk

Do you want to learn some simple football skills?
Are you free Tuesday mornings from 1st November?



Opportunities together and Stockport county football club are working together to provide some simple football/ sports coaching sessions that would be fun and enjoyable for everyone. Limited places available

STOCKPORT SHARKS SWIMMING CLUB



This club provides the opportunity for people of all ages with physical and/or sensory enjoy a quiet, fully supervised, normal swim with friends and family

We meet every Wednesday, 7.30 - 8.30pm at Life Leisure, Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove..

The club continues to run with the help of volunteers, donations and the support of the staff at Life Leisure.

- 👂 **New members are welcome**
- 👂 **All members are encouraged to bring family and friends**
- 👂 **There is no upper or lower age limit and we do not charge admission**
- 👂 **We only ask that you complete a membership form and respect the needs of other members**

Contact

Stockport Sharks Swimming Club

Life Leisure, Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove,
Stockport SK7 5JW

Darren Ripley on 0161 456 4655 or Jo Smith on 01625 874781

www.stockportsharksswimmingclub.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SharksSwimmingClub



6.

Stockport Gateway Club is Open for Business

Join us at our Thursday evening disco for adults with learning disabilities.



Come and have a dance or just listen to the music ...

Have a game of pool on our free table



Drinks and biscuits are included ...

Come and see your friends or make new friends.

Thursday nights. 7 o'clock until 9 o'clock.

Prospect House, 70 Derby Road, Heaton Moor. SK4 4NF.

Cost just **£1.00**

Further details please contact Chris on 0161 494 1016



Proposed Women's Institute

WHERE?- Land O'Cakes-

48 MIDDLE HILLGATE STOCKPORT.SK1 3DL

WHEN?- Last Thursday of every month. 1PM-3PM.



The Land O'Cakes is continuing to establish a local WI which is inclusive of all women, celebrates diversity, enriches our lives and learning, providing friendship and belonging.

After our first successful meeting we have lots of potential new members with ideas for events, social and workshops

Led by women for women.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- THURSDAY 24TH **CALD** Carers for adults with a Learning Disability
10.30am - 12noon, meeting at The Jolly Sailor, Bramhall Lane,
Davenport. Speaker : Mary Edward from Stockport Advocacy.
Contact details :Marcia McEwen 07906 091219.
- THURSDAY 24TH **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** 1.00 -3.00pm , Land O'Cakes,
48 Middle Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3DL
This is a new venture as publicised on page 6.
Contact Mary Edwards on 0161 480 8979.
- SUNDAY 27TH **St Peter's Lambs Special Needs Disco**, 4.00 - 6.00pm
for those with special needs and their carers, all ages.
Everyone welcome at St Peters Parish Centre,
16 Green Lane,Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA
For mire information contact Keith 456 0881,
Jackie 483 66348 or Brenda 483 7720.

DECEMBER

- FRIDAY 2ND **STOCKPORT MENCAP CHRISTMAS PARTY**
7.00 - 10.00pm, Our Ladies' Social Club, Flint Street,
Shaw ,Heath, Stockport. Invites essential. ✎ .
Please see the accompanying invitation leaflet.
- SATURDAY 3RD **Opportunities Together Christmas Fair & Grotto**
O.T. Resource Hub, 8 Owens Farm Road, Offerton ,
Visit Santa and pick up some Christmas presents
For further details contact otr@stockport.gov.uk
or phone 0161 419 9644.
- SATURDAY 10TH **Beryl's Disco** 7.30 -10.00pm, Parkside Social Club,
Midland Road, Bramhall. Tickets £5 (under-16s £4)
Beryl Moore 486 0009, Jean Hallwirth 292 2263.
- SUNDAY 11TH **St Peter's Lambs Christmas Party**, 4.00 - 6.00pm
for those with special needs and their carers, all ages.
Everyone welcome at St Peters Parish Centre,
See details for 27th November.



JANUARY 2023

- THURSDAY 26TH **CALD** the alternate month meeting
Venue and speaker have yer to be confirmed,
Contact Marcia McEwen 07906 091219.

BIRTHDAYS

We wish Many Happy Returns to those members who will be celebrating a birthday in the coming months :

November

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Darren Brown | 6.11.73 |
| Adrian Smith | 20.11.70 |
| Stephen Chivers | 25.11.66 |
| Brian Barker | 20.11.66 |

December

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Cherry Gilmour | 10.12.56 |
| Lee Murray | 15.12.77 |
| Nick Edwards | 23.12.91 |
| Andrew Bentley | 30.12.86 |

January 2023

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Ian Taylor | 3.1.84 |
| Duncan Goodwin | 4.1.85 |
| Debbie Greenhalgh | 11.1.82 |
| Dominic Earley | 12.1.65 |
| Emily Taylor | 18.1.84 |
| Christopher Oates | 21.1.82 |
| Ann Hardie | 25.1.63 |
| Karen Stitt | 25.1.71 |
| Janice Green | 28.1.69 |
| Christopher Neary | 29.1.69 |
| Jack Anderson | 30.1.87 |



February

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|---------------|---------|
| Alicia McEwen | 1.2.85 |
| David Littler | 20.2.82 |



WHO'S WHO IN STOCKPORT MENCAP

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------|
| President | Tony Favell MBE LLB | |
| Vice President | vacant | |
| Chairman | Mel Hubbard | 439 5905 |
| Vice-Chairman | Marilyn Macaulay | 494 1253 |
| Treasurer | Paul Coupland | |
| Secretary | Cath Littler | 286 0539 |
| User member | Dominic Earley | |
| Gateway Representative | Chris Mulroy | 494 1016 |
| ABC Representative | David Creighton | 431 9867 |
| Trans 16 Representatives | Dr Janet El Mikatti | 485 4068 |
| | Glenys Goodwin | 494 8421 |
| Other Committee members | Richard Lewis | |
| | Geraldine Earley | 432 2518 |
| Birthday listing | Margaret Murray Davies | 443 2246 |
| Challenge Editor | David Macaulay | 494 1253 |
| E-mail | davidfmacaulay@hotmail.com | |
| Prospect House | | 431 3036 |
| Website | www.stockport-mencap.co.uk | |