

ARCHIVED NEWS REPORTS 2012



Steve gives Mental Health Awareness talk to Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors

Saturday 14th April 2012,

Steve presented his third annual mental health awareness seminar to the Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors & prayer supporters. With over 40 people taking it in turns to go out each Friday night on and a similar number of supporting them in prayer, they provide an invaluable help to the marginalised in the town.

Crossways Community gives its first Mental Health Conference at Burrswood



Wednesday 18th April 2012, Crossways Community hosted its first Mental Health Conference at Burrswood. Its aim was to support clergy/ministers/pastors and other leaders in the local churches cope with stress and have a better understanding of their own and others mental health. We're grateful for the various contributions including:

Dr Gareth Tuckwell, Burrswood's CEO who introduced the day;

Dr Paul Worthley, Senior Physican at Burrswood who talked about the physical aspects of stress;

Louise Jessop, a trained physiotherapist, Tesco's Checkout Champion and who is also recovering from her own long-term mental ill-health shared her own life's journey and her beautiful collection of tapestries;

Crossways' input came in the form of a presentation from John Neel about perception, making a difference and some of the differences between different types of mental illness and Steve Howcroft who led the last training session on how labelling affects people, some background theories as to how we develop our personalities and relate to people and a demonstration on what it's like to hear voices.



Steve gives Mental Health Awareness Seminar to Home Start Volunteers

Wednesday 16th May 2012. Steve presented a MHA seminar to about 20 of the volunteers and full-time staff of Home Start (South West Kent). A registered charity that provides volunteers who visit families in the families' own homes offering informal and friendly and confidential support. Given how important early involvement is for children, supporting and helping parents to cope, is a great ambition.



One of our Supported Accommodation residents tells how his life has improved by getting involved with work:

The following is from ThisIsKent website

Jimmy, 54, Culverden Park Road, Tunbridge Wells: "I became unwell when I was in Liverpool. I came to Tunbridge Wells to seek help and start a new life. My life a few years ago was worry and confusion. I was referred to Shaw Trust to help me get back to work. I did a three-month unpaid trial at B&Q and then got a 12-month paid contract. B&Q were very happy to keep me on, which I think is great. I was a bit shy with customers when I first started but now I can do my job the way it should be done. My life has turned out fantastically for me. I feel like a new man"



Crossways Community Enterprises

Wednesday 5th September. Record breaking amount (by 70 pence!) of £57.10 raised from our second Crossways Enterprise book sale. Again the good weather helped to make it a good day. We're grateful again for the kind donations, generous support from buyers and tireless help from the various residents who helped out.



More Schools Request Mental Health Awareness Lessons

We're grateful to hear that we've been offered to take Mental Health Awareness lessons in two new schools, The Skinners' (boys) School Tunbridge Wells and St Leonard's Mayfield (girls) School. This is addition to sessions already given to Tonbridge Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Beacon Community College, Crowborough.