

New role to boost volunteer engagement

An increase in the way Father Hudson's engages volunteers is on the cards, thanks to the appointment of the new Volunteer Manager, Mehrdad Nadershahi.

With a focus on increasing volunteers within the adult care team, Mehrdad will be going to events and connecting with local communities to show the benefits of volunteering and to recruit more volunteers to the ranks.

Mehrdad said "my first priority is engaging the local communities in Coleshill and bringing volunteers to the Coleshill site. I want to show the range of volunteering

people can do—gardening, befriending, driving. Even coming in to play guitar for an evening to entertain residents."

He will also be looking at developing policies and training to ensure that volunteers are supported in their role, as well as working with staff to help them understand how volunteers can benefit the whole organisation.



Day Service benefits from the generosity of Ball supporters

There were smiles and tears at St Catherine's Day Service when the Annual Ball Committee presented managers with a generous cheque.

Held in February, the 112th Annual Ball drew people from across the local area. This year's event was an unprecedented success, setting a new fundraising record and seeing an increase in the number of attendees and supporters.

Now all donations have come in, the Ball Committee were pleased to present Helen Anson, Manager of St Catherine's Bungalows, and Karen McPherson, Day

Service Manager, with a cheque for £10,600 towards refurbishments. Work began at the start of April on the first of the renovations – upgrading and expanding the sensory garden. When it is finished, the garden will offer a stimulating environment for adults with complex care needs to explore their senses through touch, sound, sight and smell, while benefiting from fresh air. Next in line will be the development of an indoor sensory area, renovating the specialist hydrotherapy pool and upgrading the personal care facilities. Greater support from local businesses was invaluable in making the night a success and was made possible by the dedicated committee of volunteers and Ginny Cullen, Fundraising Officer, who reached out to old and new supporters to make them aware of the cause.

Supporters from Coleshill were: Auto Q Motors, Browne's Hair Design, Crucial Trading, Em's Custom Cakes, Frederic Cox Hairdressers, Gascoignes of Coleshill, Hawthornes Hardware, HG Jerromes & Sons Decorators, Penny Johnson Flowers, The Lodge Veterinary Centre, The Upper Crust and Sole 2 Sole Yoga.

Businesses from Birmingham that supported the event were AM Cooper & Sons, Quorum Print and Design, UC4, Walk on Flooring and WB the Creative Jewellery Group. Coventry, Leamington Spa and even Kidderminster were represented by supporters including Fairway Training, Greener Options, PJM Group Ltd, Regent Document Solutions, Savona Provisions and Wright Hassall Solicitors.

The cheque was presented by Chris Loughran and Jimmy Spencer after a tour of the facilities so volunteers could see first-hand how the money they raised will make a difference to the lives of disabled people.



Bringing Hope to Wolverhampton's youth

Months of hard work by Diane Garbett of Hope Family Project, Wolverhampton,

paid off in March with the launch of the city's 2016-19 Preventing Gang Involvement & Youth Violence Strategy.

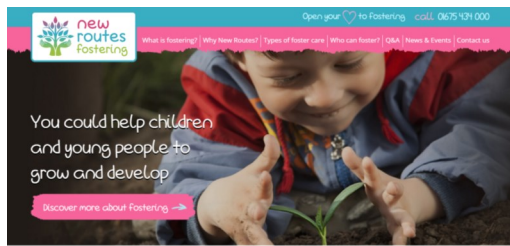
Diane worked on the Gangs Steering Group with Wolverhampton Safer Partnership Group and contributed to the strategy for the next three years.

The new plan will build on the success of the previous, which saw a reduction in knife and gun crime, reduced tension between gangs and strengthened partnership working between key agencies. The 2016-19 policy focuses on

prevention by addressing root causes and supporting people to move away from violence.

Superintendent Keith Fraser of the West Midlands Police said, "It is positive to see that our approach, working with the community and partners, is reducing the harm caused by gangs and youth violence."

Hope will continue working with the steering group and working preventatively with young people in the area through group work, individual sessions and activities.



New look for New Routes

New Routes Fostering are pleased to announce the launch of their new look website, which went live in April. The new site has a friendly design and information on types of foster care, the

Praise for Family Support Worker

Pat McGovern of the Family Support Service has received glowing praise from Heads of Year at St Gregory the Great Catholic School. Roy Peach, Carol Barrett, Sheila Mold and Faith Mwangi praised Pat for her professionalism, saying:

“Even when she is busy, she will spare the time of day to support her colleagues. Without Pat, our jobs would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

“Pat has a wealth of specialist knowledge as well as many contacts from her years of networking. Support has been made available from various sources due to her knowledge of outside agencies.

“We have called on Pat many times and she has been instrumental in supporting many young people with extremely

process of applying to foster, latest news from the team and what makes New Routes stand out.

There are links to Father Hudson’s own site, and to New Routes’ social media profiles. It is hoped that the friendly design coupled with the in-depth information will help attract more potential foster carers, which are vitally needed to support children and young people in care. Go to www.foster-carers.org.uk to view the site—any feedback would be welcome.

complex emotional and physical needs.

“Pat is able to handle Kingfisher and Safeguarding concerns, bereavements, housing, finance and social media issues, as well as bullying concerns, young carer worries, and has been heavily involved in the food bank also. Through Father Hudson’s, she has made available funds for uniform that families may otherwise not be able to afford.

“Pat is conscientious in her handling of staff, students, parents and sensitive information, and has time for every person that crosses her threshold. She is admired greatly by students and families, and we can say, hand on heart, that without her St Gregory’s would be so much worse off. She is an asset to our school community and truly an inspiration.”

Join the fun at Father Hudson’s fête

On 25 June, from 1.00—4.00, the Coleshill site will throw its doors open to the public for a summer fête.

Each department will have a stall, with activities ranging from a tombola, craft stalls, games, children’s races and much more.

Community projects are also welcome to get involved; Young at Heart will be bringing a busload of visitors for a day out and Brushstrokes will be helping with refreshments.

The fête will be a fun community event that offers an excellent opportunity to engage with local people and raise awareness about our work.

Organiser Bev Smith said, “All donations for the raffle and tombola will be much appreciated, and if you are good at crafts or knitting, any items you can produce will be welcome.” If you have something you would like to offer please contact Bev on bevsmith@fatherhudsons.org.uk.



New accommodation taking shape at Anawim

Building work is coming along swiftly at Anawim in Birmingham on the new building that will offer accommodation and support to vulnerable women on their release from prison. As well as housing, the centre will offer 24-hour support to help the women

build stability into their lives and receive support to continue their journey to a full and healthy life.

Jacky Jeffreys of Anawim said, “The builders are doing a great job and are working quickly. It is lovely to see the building taking shape and everyone is looking forward to its completion.”

Welcome new starters

Domiciliary Care

Alexandra Robinson, Support Worker/Escort

Leanne Harrison, Support Worker/Escort

St Joseph’s

Sandra Todd, Relief Domestic

St George’s House

Mehrdad Nadershahi, Volunteer Manager

New Heights Community Project

Victoria Bixby, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Farewell to friends & colleagues

St Joseph’s

Christie-Lee Milner, Kitchen Co-ordinator

We want to hear from you

The Hudson Headliner is the newsletter for staff and trustees of Father Hudson’s Care and its community projects and we want to hear your news.

To share your story in the next edition, please contact Helen McCarroll on 01675 434013 or email helenmccarroll@fatherhudsons.org.uk.



Connect with us on social media

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