Volunteer News & Stories

The Sleepout

by Roy Towler

I had seen and read about the 2010 Sleepout event and I decided it would be my 'must-do' event in March this year.

After scrounging some cardboard and blankets ahead of the date I made sure that the sponsorship forms were organised and at the same time bored my friends so much that they pledged a few pounds!

On the evening of the Sleepout, full of anticipation I arrived at PipNJay Church Courtyard in plenty of time wondering what the procedure was. Once more people arrived, a together atmosphere developed and people started relaxing and chatting. This eventually died down and the night began to quiet, and the chill began to set in! Now I admit to being nosey so I made many trips to the tea stand to find out what was going on, it was my way of keeping awake. The ambulance station made sure I didn't sleep too long as well as the pigeon up above me flapping his wings! Soon it was daybreak and it was extremely cold! The smell of bacon rolls was too much to resist as well as more cups of tea!

What I experienced was just a tiny fraction of what homeless people go through. We had access to refreshments all night, we had stewards protecting us, our belongings were safe and we had homes and warm beds to go home to. I thank God and count my blessings for what I have. It would be great if more JT volunteers get together and join in for the 2012 Sleepout!

Roy raised £150 for the Shelter and has already signed up for next year's event! (Though he might bring more blankets!)

Fundraising

Saturday night volunteer Kev Fearon is running the half marathon to raise funds for the shelter..

Please follow the link below to sponsor

http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/kevinfearonbristol

If you have any other fundraising ideas or events please contact the committee who will be happy to support you.

Other Upcoming Events at Julian Trust

* Open Doors Day - 10 Sept 2011
* AGM - 3 Nov 2011
* Christmas Carol Concert - Dec 2011

Remembering Meg

On 18th May, we experienced a terrible sadness and shock at the sudden death of our beloved Chairman Meg Grimes. Since then we have tried to continue the fantastic work that she would want us to do, but also to remember and celebrate her own special ways. Her love, passion, understanding, dedication, funny sayings and delicious cakes will be a legacy that will live on forever. This section is dedicated to Meg.

This scrumptious pie Meg made for us volunteers to eat on Monday evenings –

a high calorie coffee break!

compiled by Daphne Addis

Meg's Banoffee Pie

To serve 12 guests.

Ingredients

350 gms biscuits (Digestive Hobnobs)

150 gms butter

1 Tin Nestle Caramel

3 large Bananas

350 mls Double Cream

Method

Crush biscuits finely and blend with softened butter.

Press mixture into a 8 inch/ 20 cms cake tin.

Bake in oven on Gas Mark 3 for 10 minutes and then allow to cool

Whisk cream until stiff. Mix tin of caramel with sliced banana.

Then layer cream, toffee, banana; cream, toffee, banana; etc.

Decorate.

Some snippets from the Condolence Book

"Dearest Meg, you were always a light in the dark for me! And for countless of others. Your kindness & love will be deeply missed by all those that knew you. Rest in peace now, God will be more than proud of the way you did his will!"

"Meg, For the lady that saved my life back in 96. I swear my love you will be solemnly missed. May you rest in peace and your heart be happy."

"The most loving and accepting person I've ever met. Can't imagine how many lives you must have touched and how many people you have encouraged. Truely."

"Remembering you Meg with great love and care. You inspired us when we first met you and here we still are fourteen years later. May the Trust continue operating with the same ethos that you instilled - caring, non-judgemental and ever hopeful. Christ's hands and feet here on earth. Will always remember you with love."

"Goodbye Meg. Like the ripples in a pond, the love and concern you showed to so many will go on spreading and influence so many more."

Tributes to Meg

One of the best things about Meg was her fabulous expressions.

Five of the Best Meg-isms

- Cold enough for a hair net
- He could talk a glass eye to sleep
- I'll give you a blood orange for Christmas
- Do you fancy the older woman?
- Strong tea - weak men - that's what I like!

compiled by Geoff Moon

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Julian Trust Newsletter

25th Anniversary Special Edition

**A selection of some of our fab volunteers - there are plenty mroe that escaped a photo!*

Timeline

1986

The Julian Trust started life in 1986 when a small group of concerned individuals felt there was a need to do something for those who were sleeping on the city streets of Bristol in doorways, derelict buildings, cemeteries, and car-park stairwells to name just a few of the uncomfortable and unsafe locations. They decided that an emergency Night Shelter was needed to provide the first rung on the ladder out of homelessness. Meg chose the name Julian Trust because Mother Julian of Norwich inspired her. Julian lived a life of prayer in the fourteenth century and had many mystical visions, but she was also practical and caring helping the poor in her city. Mother Julian said: "To love a human being is to accept him as he is; if you wait until he is different you are only loving an idea". This became the motto of the Julian Trust and the reason for its open access policy: no charges to pay; no questions asked; and no forms to fill in.

In July 1992 the Night Shelter moved to Dean Street. For the first time rent had to be paid! It was now clear that the Night Shelter itself was really without a long-term home of its own, moving every two years into buildings that were not entirely suitable for its purposes. Furthermore, needing to ask the public for donations to pay a commercial rent was not the best use of their money. Could they instead be asked to fund a real home for the Night Shelter? It would need to be purpose-designed to have all the best features of our previous buildings and to meet Bristol City Council planning requirements. So began the Bristol Night Shelter Project.

The fantastic work of our volunteers continues and we been granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the MBE for Volunteer Groups. A fantastic recognition of the hard work carried out by all our volunteers. Jenny, Joe, Julie & Rosie went to Buckingham Palace to mark the occasion.

Tea with the Queen

Jenny, Joe, Julie and Rosie, fully kitted out with posh clothes and hats, went to Buckingham Palace on 12 July at the invitation of the High Chamberlain to join members of the royal family (and hundreds of others) for tea. This was in honour of the Julian Trust receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

2011

The weather was quite kind considering the previous days of rain storms and was just coolish and damp. Ben and George, Meg's sons, had come to London to support us and joined us in the queue, but this didn't take long. There was no fuss or bother getting in, no heavy handed security, just a good look at a passport and we were in within minutes. Marquees set up in 40 acres of immaculate gardens beside a three acre lake (who knew?), bands playing and hundreds of people dressed to the nines beginning to take tea. Dainty crustless sandwiches and delicious tiny cakes and patisserie on white china.

The beefeaters lined up, the national anthem played and we saw quite clearly the Queen and Prince Philip arrive on the terrace of the palace, with other members of their family, and walk slowly down the steps, stopping frequently to greet guests. Unfortunately we did not see them again until they left but we were very close that time. We still had a great time people watching and walking around the grounds.

Of course, it was a happy sad time for us as Meg should have been there and would have been so proud; and no doubt would have exclaimed at some of the outfits and made some comments to make us laugh. When we left, after we had taken some photos, we went to a nearby bar, bought a bottle of pink champagne and toasted absent friends. This event was for you and because of you, Meg. We miss you.

by Rosie Torre

The Stores & Cleaning

When the Night Shelter started in 1986 stores, and food in general, were an ad hoc affair and very different to our present situation. A few tins of donated soup and beans, stored in any space available at "St Nick's" was the order of the day but it was always served with love and enjoyed by our guests. Thanks to our generous supporters and volunteers, 25 years on we are able to offer a much wider range of food and services to the vulnerable people who come through our door night by night. What started as a small food cupboard has grown to the present day store filled with far more choice than we could ever have imagined back then. We have been so faithfully supported over the years – far beyond our imaginings – but our work is just as necessary now as it was when Meg first started out. The store looks reasonable at present but the fact is it is at its lowest level for as long as we can remember; the economic climate has resulted in far fewer donations of food. We have always relied heavily on Harvest and Christmas for the bulk of our food donations but Harvest simply cannot come quickly enough to replenish our stock and we have to buy more food and commodities. We have always bought bread, milk, margarine, sugar, squash, plus cleaning and laundry products, but they were always supplemented by donations.

A list of our requirements is available either in the Shelter or on the website – please make our needs known as widely as possible and help us ensure a bumper Harvest which will take us through to the end of the year.

Cleaning is undertaken by volunteers too but we could use more help in order to keep the shelter clean. It's a very large building and on Mondays we never feel we have done enough; a little extra help would make a world of difference. If you know anyone who has a couple of hours to spare or would like to know more, please contact us (0117 9666067) or Jenny Oates (01275 852806).

by Steve & Julie Griffiths

Message from the Committee

The Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all volunteers and supporters for all your contributions over the last 25 years.

With your ongoing support, together we can honour Meg and continue her legacy. We are certain that the night shelter will continue for another 25 years and for as long as it is needed to serve the homeless. We are not going to give up on our guests.

Best regards, and here's to another 25 years!

Jenny, Joe, Richard, Dush, John, Geoff, Rosie, Gloria, Ed & Jo