

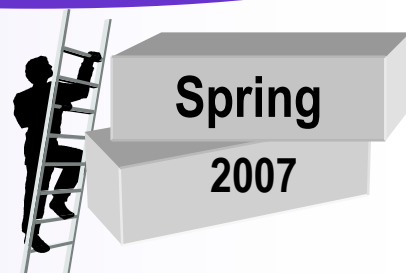
Circles Around Dundee



Scottish Charity Number SC032183

Issue Number 2

SPRING



Message from the Editors

Welcome to the second edition of the joint Dreamtime/Dreamcatchers newsletter. We've had a few staff changes since summer last year. Annette Dixon, our Dreamtime co-ordinator, left to take up a post at Elmwood College. Janie Mitchell and Kim Christie, Dreamtime facilitators, are now joint co-ordinators of the project and we have just appointed a new facilitator for our Dreamtime project. We are all delighted that Dreamtime has been awarded Big Lottery funding which means we can continue to offer our unique service to Dundee's children and young people for another 3 years. So, there are some very exciting times ahead and we anticipate a super future for Circles Around Dundee. This edition of the Newsletter includes features on:- The Big Lottery Youth Panel, The Discovery Group, The annual Gathering, Linsey's story and An Audience With....

We would like to thank:

Lord Provost John Letford for his donation, and for opening our Annual Gathering.
Ancrum Outdoor Centre for their help and support over the past year.
Dundee Roadrunners and Downfield South Social Concern fund for their kind donations.
Peter from PDQ for his ongoing assistance and advice.



A friend is one who knows us, but loves us anyway.



Training Opportunity



We have organised 3 days training with Capacity Thinking focusing on helping support staff to promote the inclusion and participation of their service users in the Community.

If you are interested in joining us on **April 24th, 25th and 26th**, or for more information, please contact Gwen Auchterlonie on 223372



Social Work Collaboration

Social work student, Sharon Grant, has joined us for a 7 week placement from Dundee University. Sharon will have the opportunity to work directly with our focus people and gain more knowledge and understanding of working with diverse social groups and organisations. We hope this is the start of an ongoing partnership which will benefit both the student and Circles Around Dundee.



Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.



We are really excited about being awarded Big Lottery Young People's Funding for the next three years. This means there will be many more children and young people with additional support needs and/or autism in Dundee who will benefit from Circles of Friends/Support and person-centred planning.

We have recently appointed a new part-time facilitator for Dreamtime. She is Leanne Wallace and she should be in post by mid April. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Leanne and hope she enjoys working with us. You'll find out more about her in the next issue.

Stephanie Muir, focus person for Dreamtime and Grahame Lapham, focus person for Dreamcatchers, did a tremendous job as part of the interview team for both the co-ordinators and facilitators posts, so many thanks to them.

It will be a very busy time for us all but we're looking forward to the challenge.

The Future's Bright—The Future's Dreamtime!

The Big Lottery Youth Panel

The Big Lottery Youth Panel paid a visit to the Dreamtime project on 25th January, 2007 to see the work being undertaken with the help of the Big Lottery Young People's Fund.

They enjoyed their visit and gained a greater insight into the work Dreamtime carry out.



The Discovery Group 2006

Once again, working in partnership with Barnardo's Family Support Team, our focus people had a fantastic time making new friends and discovering new activities within their local community. Stephanie Muir progressed towards another Youth Achievement Award.



Annual Gathering 2006

We held our annual Gathering in Baxter Park last year and all agreed that it was a resounding success. Our thanks go to the following people who helped to make the day go with a bang; Christopher Kane for his fabulous Elvis impersonation, and his sister Beth; Stacy Christie, the belly dancer; Captain Duncan Smith, juggling and magic; Bob Bremner for the marquee; DVA for supplying the badge making machine; Gavin and Clara for the face painting; Catherine and Betty for the card making; Community Sports Development Team for the goal posts; Douglas Barr for the tables and chairs; Audrey for the nail bar; Teresa and friend for the buffet; Steve Manby for the disco; the Red Cross ladies for first aid; Baxter Park staff; The Breadbasket and all contributors to the cake and candy stall, the tombala and the raffle. Last, but by no means least, the staff and committee members for organising and co-ordinating the day. Please forgive us if we've missed anyone out. ☺





Hi. My name is Linsey and I have been with Dreamcatchers for nearly a year now. After the Helm project that I was involved with closed I was stuck at home for over a year doing nothing and seeing no one while my mum was at work.

I managed to get a place with the Out and About project for a couple of days a week. It gave me the opportunity to meet people and go to new places but that didn't last long.



Now I go to college and have met new people, made new friends and enjoy going around with them to class everyday, and we like to have fun and learn new skills. The college that I decided to apply for is Elmwood in Cupar. Gwen from Dreamcatchers helped me fill in the paperwork and came with me to look around just to see what the place was like. It looked okay to me but I was still very unsure. However, with help from Dreamcatchers, I was accepted and started in September 2006.



At first I was a little bit frightened of going into my new classroom. While I was there I met a friend called Katie along with a few other new friends and my course tutor Craig Martin, who is a professional gym teacher and he is also my guidance tutor.

I have been involved in setting up a small café, took part in hockey championships, learned IT skills, improved my fitness in the gym and gained better knowledge in healthy living. I have made lots of friends at college. Now I feel that I can do anything I want with my life. I have got lots of friends and love learning new skills.



Social Evenings

By Grahame Lapham



Every now and then we have a little social evening out somewhere. One of the reasons why is because it gives people who don't get out much a chance to have some sort of a social life

and to make new friends, as well as to have a bit of fun and enjoy themselves. The last social evening that we had was in the Mega bowl at the Stack. But the one before that we went out for a meal and a drink at Lloyds. Apart from a drink and a meal we all had a bit of a laugh. Some of the places that we go to include restaurants, bars and anywhere else that we like to go.

Our New Reporter

We'd like to introduce you to our new reporter, Grahame Lapham. Grahame will be writing articles and going out to individuals and organisations looking for opinions and information that will be of interest to our readers.





AN AUDIENCE WITH.....

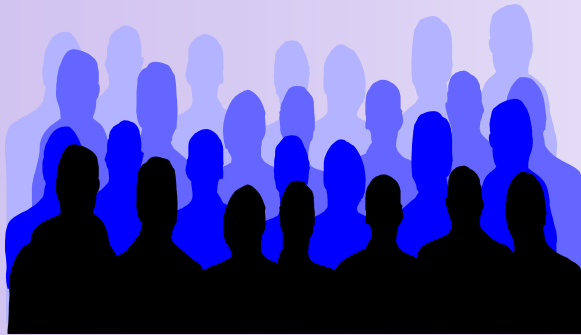
George Farquhar
Chairman of the
Management Committee



I am delighted to have been asked to make a contribution to the first 'Audience with' and I hope to have a regular feature in future editions of our Newsletter. On this occasion the editors have asked that I tell you a bit about how I became involved with Circles Around Dundee.

I retired as Director of Human Resources of Perth and Kinross Council in 2003 and wanted to use my expertise and knowledge to do something in the community. My first point of contact was the Volunteer Centre at Constitution Road; it's a great set up with all sorts of opportunities available, from office work to cleaning up the Dighty.

I chose to work in DVA providing personnel advice on training, grievances, policies etc., to general advice and support. You will normally see me at DVA on Wednesday's but I get out and about in Dundee supporting organisations such as Kirkton Community Support, Dundee



International Woman's Centre, Woman's Aid, St Andrews Church, Carolina House Trust etc. I really do enjoy the work at DVA and find it very rewarding. During my early days with DVA I became aware that Circles was going through a sticky patch. They were looking for people to help out on the committee, I said I would help and the rest is history. It's great to be involved with an organisation that does such good work with children and adults. We have a smashing staff and a go ahead management committee all of

whom support Circles with their time, skills and experience.

I, along with the management committee and staff, have lots of ideas for the future and it would be my intention to map out our vision for the next few years and would hope to share them with you in the next newsletter. Should you wish to participate in any of our activities please do not hesitate to give me a call.

When I have some free time I like to spend it on the golf course, so don't look for me on a Thursday!

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The Bailey Thomas
Charitable Fund

