



MCSC News

The Home of Community Work

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Newly available office and parking space! Please see page 3 for details.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MARCH

Friday 4th

Vol Sector Focus Group

Friday 18th

Red Nose Day

Sunday 27th

2011 Census Day

CHECK OUT THE CHECK-IN REFURBISHMENT

Thank you all for your patience while the necessary work was undertaken to refurbish the kitchen of our popular Check In Café. You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs and you can't install a new kitchen without a lot of dust and noise! I hope the results as seen in the before and after photos below will prove that it was worth it.

Before:



After:



You will know that we have been running the café in partnership with KCC Adult Services. Such has been the success of the venture that KCC offered to fund the upgrading of the existing kitchen, the units of which have been in place since the building was opened in 1988.

The new look kitchen is now much more fit for purpose with increased storage and larger preparation areas. This has meant that the kitchen can now cater for larger buffets. This was one of the main aims of upgrading the facility and the Check-In team now look forward to taking your orders for larger meetings and get-togethers and can even cater for external events.

Please contact Bob, our chef, for all your catering needs or to order your meal on internal extension 112.

LEISURE LEARNING

A definite flavour of Spring will be found in our new courses covering March and April. Courses are designed for those who are disadvantaged by health or social issues, especially those with a learning disability. Courses are great value for money at just £2 per hour.

- There are craft based workshops designed around Spring and Easter including one for Bead Decorations and Jewellery.
- Painting and Drawing, Cook & Eat and Music Making are on the programme for existing students to re-enrol and for new students to join.
- We have been asked for activities for Saturday afternoons so why not join 'Cooking Treats'?

For further information please contact Joan, our Leisure Learning Manager on 01622 230711.



Spring Workshop



Mobility Exercise Courses

Cooking Treats
Bake something tasty to take home for tea.



The Activity Hour
Fun exercises to music



Cook and Eat

Bead Jewellery & Decorations Workshop

LEISURE LEARNING COURSES
Maidstone Community Support Centre
www.mcsc.org.uk

Join A Course Today
NEW COURSES FOR SPRING

Drawing and Painting for All



Easter workshop
Decorate eggs and make Easter Cupcakes



Music Making



SPACE TO SPARE?

Those groups who have parking spaces at the centre are urged to let Reception know if their allocated space is not being used for a day or even a half day. Providing you have no objections—we would be grateful to be able to offer that space to some one else.

BOOMBOX NEEDS GOOD HOME

For the price of a donation to Club Connect, you could be the proud owner of this state of the art midi stereo system!

- Record deck
- 3 disc CD deck
- Double cassette deck
- Radio
- Remote Control

Please see Reception if you are interested



MIKE'S ALADIN'S CAVE

The Centre is often described as a rabbit warren. Under ground, there is a further myriad of rooms and recesses which are inevitably used for storage. Mike, our caretaker is having a spring clean!

The following items are the first of many to see the light of day for a very long time but are all in serviceable order and offered to good homes on a first come, first served basis. Please see the poster on the notice board opposite Hall 1 and leave your details next to any item(s) you may need.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 2 station bain-marie | 4 station bain-marie | Glass washing machine |
| • Used desk | Coffee table | |
| • Drawing board on stand | Table with collapsing legs | 2 double drawer filing cabinets |

This list is a work in progress - items will be added and removed so keep checking the list on the notice board!

COMPUTERAID & RECYCLING

We try to encourage recycling in the centre. There is a collection box for old printer cartridges, a paper shredder, the V Team collect used cans and our recycling bin is capable of taking plastic bottles along with paper, card and wood. It is nice to sometimes hear that we are doing things right, so it was lovely to receive the following letter of thanks from Computeraid :

"I am writing to say a huge 'thank you' for helping us to raise over £18,000 in 2010 through our printer cartridge recycling scheme.

This is enough to equip 18 African schools with a computer room containing 20 computers each. The provision of ICT solutions to schools gives young people who might not otherwise have access to PCs the opportunity to further their education, develop their skills and significantly improve their employment prospects."

For anyone who is not already aware, please place any used ink cartridges in the collection box in the Post Room or ask at Reception.



WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL RETIREMENT!



Jacqui Milne will be known to many of you as CEO of HOPE, a longstanding member group that works with Ex Offenders. To others she will be known as a tireless member of the MCSC Board, latterly as our Chairman.

HOPE arranged a lovely retirement send off party for Jacqui, hosted at the Centre and attended by many of her colleagues, friends and associates. Jacqui wrote a poignant thank you card which has been transcribed below: *'To all at MCSC—Thanks to everyone for all the good wishes on my departure from the Centre. I was overwhelmed by the lovely people to wish me well. In the 20 years I worked at the Centre, it has grown from a tiny venture in a cold and ramshackle building to the fantastic place it has become. I know it will go on to greater and greater things. Good luck to all those who work for the Centre, the Board Members and all member groups'*

We thank Jacqui for her unwavering support of the Centre over the years and wish her well in her thoroughly well deserved retirement.

Office Space Update



We have been extremely fortunate for some time that our offices have been fully occupied. However, from time to time offices do come up and we currently have two excellent opportunities for either existing groups looking to expand/move or for new groups to join us here.

The first space is a large ground floor office suitable for 4 or 5 workstations. It may be familiar to you as it is currently our Meeting Room in the Annex. A lovely, large room with a bay window and fire place and a useful adjoining store room. The main room is 246 square feet in size (suitable for between 4 - 5 work stations). Additional 58 square feet store room attached. Rental is £4,343 per annum. Available April



The second office is a second floor room overlooking the inner courtyard and suitable for two workstations. Available at a rental of £1,622 per annum. Available April.



PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE

We will have two parking spaces available from 1 April at a cost of £515 per annum each. Given the current difficult times, we would be happy to consider member groups wanting to take on a half share of a space or even groups of individuals who would like to club together to have a space.

For further information on any of the above opportunities please do contact the Centre Manager, Richard on internal Extension 102 and please do spread the word about office availability to any other group that may be interested in joining us here..

Manager's Report



It seems an age since we were all snowed in and in the depths of winter. However, we have tried to learn from that bitter experience and are in the process of installing secondary double glazing throughout the Mezzanine area of the building before the next onslaught.

As part of the monitoring process we installed thermometers in key areas of the building and whilst some of the low readings were truly unacceptable we have also recorded some equally unacceptable *high* readings. Can I please remind you all to monitor your radiators and rather than turn them up to maximum try to gently increase or decrease the temperature. After all, the ever increasing fuels bills (we have just had an 11% increase in our gas unit rate) must eventually translate into higher rents. If we can all have one eye on efficiency it will be a tremendous help.

I'm sure that most of you will be getting tired of the much bandied about "Big Society", particularly as that big society has been alive and well in this Centre for over 20 years! Some months ago I attended several meetings where there was much gloom and despondency. However, without wishing to underestimate the current uncertainty, I was heartened by the responses to our recent Licensee Profile. There seemed to be an overwhelmingly positive response to the future challenges we all face. I strongly believe that this positive attitude will see us through the difficulties of the next few months. For our part, MCSC will do its best to support groups as they go through this period and please do let me know if there is anything we can do to help.

Club Connect will be leaving us at the end of March. We wish all the staff and service users every success in their new home. But, whilst it is sad to see them go after so many years here, it gives us the opportunity to create additional meeting space. We now have 185 external groups who regularly use our meeting rooms and have our own projects including our Leisure Learning programme and some exciting youth oriented projects to come so this a vital area in which we can grow. We will be looking to provide a highly spec'd meeting room with all the latest technology, including video conferencing and built-in multi media facilities.

Finally, I do hope you approve of the new look kitchen. I am aware that the construction noise was unbearable for some but the result is a kitchen fit for the future. Please do make use of its services, whether for small meetings or larger events. I can certainly recommend their Café Latte!

MCSC IN-HOUSE

SERVICES

These are some of the services offered by MCSC:

Photocopying:

- A4 black & white —4p per copy (A3 8p)
- A4 colour—10p (A3 20p) per side
- Brochure collation, stapling and delivery to your office—FREE

Fax service

- 5p per sheet

Laminating

- A4 30p / A3 60p

Reception Service

- Phone answering and message taking service—FREE * only available to members of MCSC Telephony service who can choose to divert calls.

Meeting room equipment:

- OHPs, Flip charts, white boards, P/A system, TV, video, CD/DVD player.
- laptop and multi media projector.
- All items can be requested when making a booking by pressing CTRL and clicking on the items you want.
- Hearing Loop

For more information about these and other services our reception team can offer please contact Jackie Avery on extension 103 or Reception on 101.

MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE

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