

*The Home of Community Work*



## Merry Christmas from everyone at MCSC



MCSC reception, evening reception and Saturday morning reception will be closed over the Christmas & New Year period. The Centre will be accessible as usual to those with door access fobs.

Reception will be closing in the afternoon on the 23rd December 2016 and will re-open on the 3rd January 2017 at 8:30am.

Tad and the staff of MCSC would like to wish all the member groups, sessional users and visitors to the Centre a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

If there is an emergency at the Centre over the Christmas period, you can refer to the 'Out Of Hours Emergency Contacts' sheet on the door in reception. This phone number is to be used in an **Emergency ONLY**. It is NOT a MCSC phone number, and as such they will not be able to assist in general day to day matters.

If the alarm is sounding, we have key holders that will attend the Centre and no phone call is required.



The Royal Mail will be collecting the post from the Centre as normal up to Thursday 22nd December.

Please ensure that any post for the last collection is in the post room by **4pm**, this will be the final collection until normal service resumes on Wednesday 4th January 2017.



If you are using the Centre over the Christmas period could you please ensure that the **FRONT DOOR IS KEPT CLOSED AT ALL TIMES**, and you only allow access for the person/s you are expecting. As reception will be closed, we can't control access/egress to the Centre and we rely on your assistance.





## The Café at Marsham Street



As you may be aware, our Café at Marsham Street training project will be ending on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, due our contract with Kent County Council (KCC) coming to an end. Changes in the way that KCC will be paying for services in the future will not enable us to continue to support the project financially.

The good news is that from January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 Michelle Raymen, the current Café cook in residence will be taking over the Café. This will be run as an independent business with members of her family assisting her.

Michelle aims to continue to work with some of the volunteers and students who currently benefit from the existing project.

We would like to wish Michelle and her team the very best of luck in the New Year and I am sure that everyone in the building will continue to support Michelle and the Café.

We also would like to thank Sam, Jutta, Zoe, Patricia and Jeremy for all their hard work and dedication in making the Café what it is today.

Thank you to all the students who have spent time in the café learning new skills which we are sure will benefit them in the future.

Tad Taberer (CEO MCSC & The Café at Marsham Street)



### 2nd Floor building work



As part of our on-going commitment to our Member groups within the Centre, we are now in the process

of starting to upgrade toilet and kitchen facilities within the building. We will be starting on the second floor during the Christmas break. Obviously there will be some disruption during this process, but working with our contractors we will try to minimise this as much as possible. The upgrade will improve the toilet facilities and kitchens.

### Heating

If you have an office here in the Centre could you please refrain from leaving your radiators on full. If you are experiencing problems with your heating then please let Andrew, our caretaker know and he will happily assist you with radiator/thermostat issues.

If you know that you are working in the Centre over the Christmas period, could you please ensure that Andrew is aware (if he hasn't contacted you already) as he is currently working out the heating schedule for the Centre over the festive period.



## Hello

We are pleased to welcome 2 new groups into the Centre. Family Matters (who have been using our sessional rooms since July 2014 and have now taken an office, and Second Choice Housing Support who have move in to an office.

## Goodbye

Rosaleen (volunteer MCSC receptionist) has moved into a permanent position outside of the Centre. We wish her well in her new ventures.

## Dates for your diary...



## DECEMBER

**9th December** Members Meeting. All Member groups of MCSC are invited to attend. On the Agenda— The Café, 2nd Floor building works.

**22nd** Last post collection from MCSC for 2016.

## JANUARY

**3rd 2017** MCSC returns to work !!! Do you ?

## Complimentary tea and coffee in the Sessional Rooms



This will be stopping in the New Year. However it will be replaced with a chargeable service that will be provided by Michelle (the new proprietor of the café) from January 2017.

These prices will be released shortly, and we will be able to advise everyone via the usual channels.



## Car Parking at the Centre

Is your organisation finishing early for the Christmas break and will not be using your parking space?

Parking is in high demand, so if you know you will not need your space, why not arrange to let it out to other member groups within the Centre? See the MCSC forum for more details or let reception know

## Will you, or someone you know, be alone this Christmas?



Would like some festive fun? Involve Older People's Service are holding our annual Christmas Party for older people living in Maidstone. There will be a Christmas dinner, entertainment and presents for everyone and it is free, though donations are welcome.

The party will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at St Luke's Church Hall, Maidstone, 12.30-15.00

We may be able to provide transport too if needed.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Charlotte Jones, Services Manager on 01622 235 833 or

[charlotte.jones@involvekent.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.jones@involvekent.org.uk)

Thank you to everyone that attended our Armistice gathering on the 11th November. As always the gathering was a very moving experience. Thank you to Laura who read the poetry.



Lest We Forget.



## CAFÉ AT MARSHAM STREET



### The Christmas Special Menu is back for 2016.

Between the 12th and 15th December the café will be serving its Christmas Menu

If you fancy something special, then come to the café for lunch

For further details please speak to the café staff



## Domestic Abuse at Christmas

Choices recognise that domestic abuse can increase over the festive period and are open for support. Our helpline will be open as usual on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December between 9:00 - 4:30 on 0800 917 9948.

The National Domestic Violence Helpline will be open 24 hours over the festive period on **0808 2000 247**. The last One Stop Shop in Maidstone before Christmas will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> December from 9:30 - 11:30 at The Salvation Army, Union Street, Maidstone.

Other One Stop Shops will be open over the festive period and people are welcome to attend a One Stop Shop outside of their local area;

28th December. Tonbridge One Stop Shop 9:30am - Midday. 4 New Wharf Road, Tonbridge. TN9 1DS

29th December . Gravesend One Stop Shop 9:30am - Midday. The Civic Centre, Gravesend, DA12 1AU

Normal service will resume for our helpline and the Maidstone One Stop Shop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

## MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE

39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1HH

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