

Iceberg Arts Update



Iceberg Arts is an art, print and design led social enterprise which is based in the grounds of the CRSAS Project at 62 Summer Street, Aberdeen. Iceberg Arts provides training opportunities for up to 60 people each year on various business skills and graphic design. For those who are artistic the enterprise will provide support to homeless people to create their own original art work and will help with the marketing and sales of these. Iceberg Arts also benefits from having state of the art equipment which means it will also do commercial printing.

The premises have been converted

from a very run down store to a smart studio with the support of Communities Scotland. Subsequent funding has also been awarded to appoint two members of staff for Iceberg Arts. The business will be closely connected to Cyrenians' projects and other related services and will support trainees to develop their personal and employability skills so that trainees can move on to mainstream training or employment in the wider community.

In the 8 months since the start of trading, Iceberg Arts has provided services to individuals and businesses (large and small) offering a range of high quality designed and printed products from business cards, flyers, posters, stationary, menus to large banners, manuals and newsletters. Iceberg Arts provide a personal service and invites customers into the studio to discuss their needs.

www.iceberg-arts.co.uk



Iceberg Arts' Ian at work in the studio

Project Focus: ICDRS

The Integrated Community Drug Rehabilitation Service was established in 2003 following a successful application from the Big Lottery and support from Aberdeen City Council. The Cyrenians are the lead partner in this unique initiative, working alongside other voluntary agency partners Aberdeen Foyer, Phoenix Futures and Drugs Action.

The service comprises of a team of multi agency staff, providing rehabilitative support to those who are in treatment and recovering from a substance misuse problem. The service aims to address issues relating to drugs, housing and employability and achieves this by working in an integrated way with healthcare and social work staff.

Clients come from all walks of life and are referred to the service

from GP practices across the city. In addition to the specialist interventions provided, clients also have access to a Physical Activity and Wellbeing worker addressing needs around physical and mental wellbeing.

The service has grown significantly over the years and now consists of 16 staff (including 7 Cyrenians). The service was proud to receive excellent praise from the recent Substance Misuse Social Work Inspection Agency audit which described ICDRS as a best practice model.

Many clients have benefited from the

ICDRS, having successfully completed treatment and re-established themselves within their communities and families. Many have re-entered employment, education and training and are leading drug free lives.

Staff work out of many bases within the city and are supported by their respective organisations and the ICDRS management Structure.

The ICDRS has recently started to deliver a pre-treatment service which aims to address the needs of those on waiting lists and better prepare individuals for entering treatment. The ICDRS is looking forward to further expansion to be able to link with every GP practice in the city and link in more effectively with communities and resources.

The Cyrenian

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The Future

Following on from the much publicised funding cuts by Aberdeen City Council, the Cyrenians have announced the closure of four projects – Craig House, Fonthill, Stopover and the Cygnet Project. The 23 individuals who lived in these residential services have now been found alternative accommodation.

Paul Hannan, Chief Executive said, "It is really sad to see these projects close after providing much needed services over the last 40 years. The closures affect clients and staff alike."

Funding to the Cyrenians has been cut by £880,000 and 30 jobs within the organisation have been made redundant.

Although around 25% of the capacity has been lost, the Cyrenians will still have around

90 staff at the remaining services:

- Clifton Road
- Margaret House
- Wernham House
- CRSAS (Community Resettlement, Support & Advice Service)
- CSAS (Cyrenians Supported Accommodation Service)
- ICDRS (Integrated Community Drug Rehabilitation Service)

The organisation will still, therefore, be able to meet the needs of a considerable number of vulnerable, homeless people.

Paul said, "With this in mind,

we now have to focus on the future and try to ensure that the remaining services work flat out to support and resettle those who find themselves homeless in Aberdeen. We would like to take this opportunity to thank people for the massive level of support that they have given us during this period of crisis".

The Cyrenians have been aware of the proposed funding cuts for some time. A protest was launched and staff, clients and supporters alike did all they could to eliminate or reduce this level of loss. However, the protest did not affect the Council's decision. Cyrenians staff and the Council of Management were forced to devise a plan to use the remaining funding to support the largest volume of vulnerable people to the best of the organisation's ability.

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Coming Up

AGM
27th October 2008

Thomas Ball
4th October 2008

Christmas Appeal
November/ December 2008

Text 2 Donate

Text HOME to 82540 to
make a £3 donation to
The Cyrenians

40th Anniversary Business Dinner



Chief Executive Paul Hannan and First Minister for Scotland Alex Salmond

experiencing homelessness.

Chief Executive Paul Hannan said *"I am delighted that so many people have come to support the Cyrenians. Instead of marking our 40th anniversary, for us 2008 will be remembered as our worst year ever in terms of funding. However we are now ready to look to the future with the support of the business community who attended the business dinner. I must also give sincere thanks to the First Minister for his interest and support."*

The First Minister offered a last minute auction prize which was purchased 3 times over at a value of £2,000 each. This made a significant difference to the funds raised

The **40th anniversary business dinner** was attended by companies and individuals from across the city and shire. The First Minister Alex Salmond attended the event and addressed the audience.

Close to £20,000 was raised on the night which will contribute to the Cyrenians' work with vulnerable local people who are

on the night and helped to contribute to the fun, enjoyable atmosphere.

Fundraising Manager Amy Grant added *"Having the First Minister at the event was fantastic and I look forward to future events that are as successful as this one was"*. Overall the 40th anniversary business dinner was a brilliant success!



Members of Business Group BNI Bravo pose with the First Minister and Jenna Cameron, who performed during the drinks reception.

Thomas Ball



family then worked with the Cyrenians to create a fundraising event and the Thomas Ball was born.

The event consists of a Ceiligh dance, a four course Dinner, charity auction and the traditional *Skite the pound*.

Tickets are priced at £50 each or £450 for a table of ten.

Cyrenians Fundraising Manager Amy Grant said *"The Thomas Ball is an important event in our fundraising calendar and we look forward to another successful year"*.

Tickets and more information are available from the fundraising & communications department.

The 8th Annual Thomas Ball takes place at the **Mercure Ardoe House Hotel** on Saturday **4th October 2008**.

The event is called the 'Thomas Ball' after a young boy called Thomas, who was visiting his Aunt and Uncle in Aberdeen. He was moved by the amount of homeless people and wanted to do something to help them. His

AGM

The 2008 Annual General Meeting will take place on the **27th October** at 6pm at the **Community Resettlement Support & Advice Service** at 62 Summer Street.

The AGM will officially mark the Cyrenians 40th anniversary year.

At the meeting a review of the previous year and future plans will be discussed and the financial accounts from the last financial year will be put forward for approval. Chief Executive Paul Hannan and Cyrenians Chair Jeremy Burchill will address the audience.

This is an opportunity for people to learn more about the organisation.

All are welcome to attend.

Interview: Morag Duncan



about to move on to pastures new bringing her 18 years of service to an end.

What is your career background? When I was at school I always wanted to work in social work but I didn't pursue it at first. Eventually I decided that I definitely wanted to move into social care and went to college. I completed my first year and in the summer break I applied for a post at Wernham House and got it.

Tell us about your time with the Cyrenians. I joined the Cyrenians in 1989 and have seen many changes over the years.

Which posts have you held within the organisation? I was in the first post with Wernham House for 3 years. I then went to work in the Women's Hostel which is now Margaret House. While in this post I was encouraged to apply for the post of Assistant Manager at Wernham House. I then spent the next few years moving between Wernham House and Margaret House. In 1999 I went to Stopover

as Acting Depute Manger then moved on to the Summer Street Project, again as Acting Depute Manager. I did another short spell back at Wernham before moving to the new Fonthill Project in 2004.

Why the Cyrenians? I had never heard of the Cyrenians before I applied for the job but I have never had a day where I have dreaded going to work—I've always enjoyed it.

Pros and cons? The Aims & Values of the organisation are a big pro.

How would you like to see the organisation move forward? I would like there to be a turnaround in the funding situation. I would like to see the needs of vulnerable people at the top of the agenda and then to see a flurry of new Cyrenians services being opened.

Aberdeen Business Woman's Network

Aberdeen's most established women's group, Aberdeen Businesswomen's Network (ABN), have announced that they have nominated the Cyrenians to be their charity of the year for 2008.

ABN President Laura Petrie said *"We are delighted to be able to support the local charity the Cyrenians – especially in their 40th Anniversary year. The Cyrenians provide invaluable services and it's fantastic that we are able to support their work."*

Amy Grant, Cyrenians Fundraising Manager said *"I am delighted that Aberdeen Businesswomen's Network have chosen to support the Cyrenians in our 40th anniversary year. The work we do is vitally important to our clients and it's essential to have some of the local business community behind us."*

Aberdeen Businesswomen's Network (ABN) is a self-funded organisation promoting networking among businesswomen in the Grampian area. It was founded in 1985 and was the first established network of its kind in Scotland.

The network delivers a number of networking dinners and lunches on varied topics throughout the year with informative speakers to inspire and challenge your thinking.

At each of the events the network asks members to make a donation to the nominated charity. Each year this support is worth around £2,000 to

the charity.

In late July 2008 ABN members Laura Petrie, Lesley MacKay and Laura Buchan visited the Cyrenians' Community Resettlement Support & Advice Services and presented a cheque to Fundraising Manager Amy Grant and some clients who were using the service.



Aberdeen Business Woman's Network Committee Chair Laura Petrie poses with Stanley Robertson and Cyrenians Fundraising & Communications Manager Amy Grant.