

MARTHA NEWS

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF A NEW HOME PROJECT

A new home for Hastings



Drawings courtesy of Tyrell Dowington Associates,
Chartered Architects

Following the successful completion of Frances House our children's home in 1999 and the extension to Martha House in 2002, preparations are now underway for us to complete a new residential home for young people with profound disabilities in Hastings, East Sussex. 'This new home in Hastings will build on the success of Martha Trust in Deal' said Graham Simmons, Martha Trust Director.

In brief

- *A new home built in partnership with Agape Trust*
- *A much needed facility for young people and their families in East Sussex*
- *Residential care for eight young people*
- *Target completion/opening date Spring 2005*
- *Fundraising campaign underway*



Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain – Psalm 127

The beginning of a new era for Martha Trust

Martha Trust was founded in 1983 and since then we have built an excellent reputation for the quality of our work with both children and adults with profound disabilities.

We are working in partnership with Agape Trust whose original vision it was to create this new home at Hastings. Agape Trust is a Christian charity with identical aims to Martha Trust.

Although Martha Trust will own and run the new home we are very conscious of all the work and planning Agape Trust have put into this project from the beginning which has been vital in getting this far.

This new home in Hastings will initially care for eight young people on a residential basis with the intention of expanding to include respite care in future years.



Phase 1 on target

Our primary consideration is to create an environment which, like Martha House, will be very homely and welcoming with a relaxed atmosphere.

This new home is already part-built and comprises 4 bedrooms with en-suites, a lounge, kitchen and dining room. There are also several rooms which will be used for sensory and educational therapies.

The original plan provides for an additional 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a second lounge, dining room and kitchen, all of which need to be constructed as part of the final phase.

The demand for this type of care and accommodation is so great that several young people have already been nominated to move into the home when it opens in early 2005. Talks are already underway with Social Services with the aim of reaching a satisfactory agreement regarding the first residents of the home.



LAYOUT PLAN

- 2 separate living areas
- 8 bedrooms (when complete)
- Morning and afternoon courtyards
- Spacious environment similar to Martha House (see picture below)
- Imaginative garden design

Final Phase Fundraising Underway

It is estimated that this project will cost in the region of £500,000 to complete and plans are in motion to begin fundraising for the final phase of construction.

We realise we shall need the support of many people to complete this project and to ensure that Agape's original vision becomes a reality in the foreseeable future.



For further information on making a donation or fundraising generally, please contact Jackie Flynn on 01304 381615

Sunshine and pansies in the Martha garden this spring

Spring is with us and the Martha garden is beginning to fill with the vibrant colours and aromatic scents of a new season.



This spring has seen our residents and carers decorating plant pots and planting them up with a variety of beautiful flowers. The pots have been placed in the patio and decking areas and we are enjoying the continual emergence of new blooms.

In the pond the fish are basking in the sunshine and some of the carp seem to have grown incredibly big.

On a grander scale, Kent Garden Trust has volunteered its services to redesign a sensory play area for Frances House.

We have asked for it to include a fairy garden for the children and some special play equipment such as swings and roundabouts designed to suit our needs.



MARTHA LIFE

Rock Around the Clock

Live entertainment is something we enjoy greatly at Martha. Music and dance add to the happy and creative atmosphere we thrive in. A great favourite of ours, SG Productions Ltd, recently visited to perform 'Rock Around the Clock' and 'Lipstick on Your Collar' and as you can see (right) it was a very entertaining performance.

If that wasn't enough, we also enjoyed our own amateur performance of Cinderella for the 2003 Christmas pantomime (below). Directed and performed by Martha staff, it was a great success and we give a big thank you to them all for putting the show together.



The Martha Diary

Trips, Parties, Events, Staff News etc



NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

This spring we are delighted to welcome several new staff and we wish them every happiness in their new roles.

Support Workers

David Speight, David Noden, Katie Weller, Gemma Tull, Tanya Philpott, Corrie Prinsloo

Kitchen Assistant

Linda Richardson

Nurse

Leona Brown

NEW RESIDENTS

A warm welcome to Billy Sedgwick who has recently joined us in the Day Centre and also to William Barnes who has come to live at Martha House.

DIARY

CAR TREASURE HUNT

We would like to invite all families and friends of Martha Trust to take part in our Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday July 11th 2004.

Due to start from Martha House at 2.30pm, entry is £2 per car which includes refreshments.

Please call Norma Jarvis in the Day Centre on 01304 626925 for further information or to register your entry.



Thank you St Edmunds

Thank you to the students from St Edmunds School, Dover, for visiting Martha House recently (above). Both staff and residents enjoyed their visit and we would like to say a big thank you to them for taking part in a variety of events which raised a grand total of £150.

Pool Party

A post Christmas pool party was held in the Hydropool in January for all residents and staff. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Marathon Effort

A big thank you to Vic Clapsan who took part in this year's London Marathon to raise money for Martha Trust.

Charlene's Euro Disney Trip

The dream of meeting Mickey Mouse and friends turned into reality for Charlene when she had a very enjoyable three day trip to Euro Disney in March with nurse Phil Linkin and support worker Julie Prior.

The Disney characters soon recognised that Charlene was very special and were queuing up to have their photos taken with her (left).

On day two of the trip it snowed and snowed, and although it was very cold, Charlene's obvious delight at the snowflakes landing softly on her face more than made up for the low temperature.



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