

THE KENT NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Dr Syn exhibition at the Grand, Folkestone



The Grand's manager Robert Richardson was prompted to set up this exhibition because of his love for the character, created by Russell Thorndike. Robert would like to make this an annual event. This was Folkestone's first, and the world's largest, celebration of Dr Syn during a two-week exhibition displaying the work of Kent artist Terry Anthony.

The event was opened by actor and producer Marc Sinden, whose father Sir Donald Sinden is also a fan of the infamous vicar, pirate, smuggler and local legend who Terry has painted for 15 years.

Many fans turned up for the launch including Susan Carey, Chairman of Shepway District Council and Patsy Phillip of East Kent Child Witness Service. This service, which uses trained volunteers to support young people attending court, was the beneficiary of this evening which raised £750. As it is the Grand's charity of the year there are further fundraising events lined up.



This kind of support is essential for both fundraising and also in raising awareness of the specialist work done by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Fundraising on the catwalk

Catwalk Connections Fashion Show is a fun ladies evening with high street fashions at cut prices. If your wardrobe could do with a few new mix-and-match separates for this season or you just need something new, then come along with your friends, as this is the perfect evening for you. After the show, you will have plenty of time to browse, try on and buy those fabulous bargains! No ordering, pay by cash, cheque, credit or debit cards – bargain shopping made easy, don't miss out.

This special fundraising event will be held on: - Wednesday 27th October 2010 at: - Parkwood Christian Fellowship, Parkwood Green, Rainham, ME8 9PN. Doors Open at:-7pm Show Starts at:-7.30pm

To buy your tickets please contact: - Shirley Tolhurst 01634 815779 (day) or 01634 310229 (eve) Tickets are only £5 each including refreshments – all proceeds go to Victim Support.

Victim Supportline
0845 30 30 900

Victim Support Roadshow Dates

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
FOLKESTONE POLICE STATION
12TH AUGUST 2010

ATTENDING - PATSY PHILIP & ELOISE NEWMAN

OLDER PERSON'S MONTH
MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION
9TH SEPTEMBER 2010

ATTENDING - AIMEE DODD & SHIRLEY COLLIER

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY
CANTERBURY POLICE STATION
14TH OCTOBER 2010

ATTENDING - DAVID GRINTER & SUE MCDONALD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
MEDWAY POLICE STATION
28TH OCTOBER 2010

ATTENDING - JOE CORNELL, SHIRLEY TOLHURST & MANDY BATSFORD

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PEOPLE

NORTHFLEET POLICE STATION
3RD NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENDING - BRIDGET BLACKFORD-READ, JESS EVANS, TONY NEWMAN & MANDY BATSFORD

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK
TONBRIDGE POLICE STATION
18TH NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENDING - MAGGIE PORDAGE, DAWN PEDDER & JIM MACQUARRY

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN

MARGATE POLICE STATION
25TH NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENDING - DENICE LAKE, SUSAN STILL & WITNESS SERVICE VOLUNTEER

WORLD AIDS DAY
SITTINGBOURNE POLICE STATION
1ST DECEMBER 2010

ATTENDING - BRIDGET BLACKFORD-READ, LINDA BREEZE & MANDY BATSFORD

Serious sexual violence

July saw the Serious Sexual Violence training course for Victim Support staff and volunteers. This type of incident can be very distressing, scary and upsetting for a victim and their family, the support that is offered to them is crucial. Victim Support offers intensive training so that all their staff and volunteers are equipped to support people. This could be by offering emotional or practical support to any one affected by this crime. This doesn't have to be undertaken straightaway but when the person wants it, which could be any time in the future. Sometimes an impending court date for a trial can require extra support.

They may also want practical support such as personal alarms or help with a compensation claim form. In situations where Victim Support are unable to provide the appropriate support, people may be referred to other specialised agencies from all over Kent.

Professional training for staff and volunteers

The training was enhanced with input from the following professional agencies.

Children & young person's advisor



I'm Rebecca Macey and I am the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) specifically supporting young victims of sexual violence. The service is available to young victims, up to the age of 17, in the Gravesham, Dartford, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Medway & Maidstone areas. The service provides the information, emotional support, and practical assistance needed by families after a child has been the victim of sexual assault or rape. Young victims meet with a professional in a safe confidential environment, where they are listened to, believed and supported. A primary care giver receives support, so that the child's needs, feelings and behaviours are better understood at all times.

The exact nature of the support varies as the service is individually tailored to meet individual needs, but the Children & Young Person's Advisor can offer different types of assistance. Historically the largest referral group to Family Matters have always been the 12-16 year old age bracket. Since February the Children & Young Person's ISVA service has received 68 referrals reflecting the need for this specific and unique type of support in the borough. Both the Children & Young Person & Adult ISVA services have made a dramatic difference to the landscape of support for victims of rape and sexual violence in Kent. The ISVA services are able to co-ordinate victim's needs almost immediately following a sexual attack. We strive to contact a victim within 24 hours of referral to us, enabling us to provide the support needed, when it is needed, as well as in the weeks and months that follow. Please do not hesitate to contact the ISVA Office to make a referral or for more information about us and the ISVA services.

Rebecca Macey, Children & Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, Family Matters
Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Office: 01474546638 E-mail: isva@familymattersuk.org

Adult rape & serious sexual assault co-ordinator



I am Detective Constable Gill Angus and I am based at Kent Police Headquarters in the Public Protection Unit as the Adult Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Coordinator.

I work with the other coordinators who specialise in adult abuse, child abuse, domestic abuse and honour based violence, missing persons, and violent and sex offender management. I am responsible for writing policy and protocols for the police, Third sector providers and CPS to ensure everyone works together for the victims of these types of offences.

I also provide training for Initial response officers who will be the first police attendance to explain the criminal justice process to the victim, I also assist with the training of specially trained officers who support the victim throughout the criminal justice process and provide updates of the investigation. In addition I train Home Start and Victim Support volunteers but importantly it is a point of contact for help and advice about the police process, support services available and signposting whenever required. I will admit to being very passionate about getting the victims of these offences the best support possible for as long as it is needed and would encourage anyone who has been a victim of rape and serious sexual assault to come forward and tell the police!

Adult independent sexual violence advisor



I am Danielle Gates and my role of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) is a varied, busy, and rewarding one at Family Matters, based in Gravesend, Kent. Funded in part by the Home Office, the primary aim is to offer emotional and practical support to victims of sexual violence in the North West of Kent and Medway areas. The boroughs of Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesham, Dartford, Medway, Tonbridge and Malling are all in the ISVA's geographical remit. However, due to the innovative structure of Family Matters, the ISVA service provided by us is quite unique. We run an outreach service, so booking several days a week for driving to, and visiting clients is a must.

The nature of the support offered for our clients varies enormously. With an initial assessment and risk assessment, as well as other measures, so we are able to build an individual and unique profile of the client. From there we can devise a programme that caters to all of the practical and emotional needs they may have. For some, it is assistance in finding safe housing, benefits, or support through a court case. In terms of emotional support, coping strategies, awareness of the common cognitive and emotional reactions to sexual violence, and instilling the ability to say no to future abuse are frequently required and found very beneficial by our clients.

If you thought that was quite enough of a work load (and an ISVA might agree with you!), it doesn't stop there. Part of the ISVA role is to raise public awareness and understanding, not only of our role, but more importantly the wider issue of sexual violence. There are still many misconceptions about sexual violence in the public domain, so through close collaborations with the Kent Police, CPS (Crown prosecution Service), Kent Criminal Justice Board (KCJB), local SARC's, and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), we work hard to dispel those myths and bring the real issues to the table. Ultimately, this helps the victim and hopefully provokes more people to feel safe and confident enough to come forward to organisations such as Family Matters. Office No: **01474 546638** Work Mobile: **07760792725**. As a victim-centred organisation, that is the overarching aim not only for Family Matters, but an ISVA too.

Volunteers new's

The next volunteer forum is to be held at Norman House, 16th September at 2pm.

This forum is open to all volunteers in Kent, please come along. This event has not been well attended in the past so please help us get the numbers up, it is only on twice a year and lots of people go to a lot of trouble getting it organised for your benefit and pleasure. You can meet other volunteers and discuss any issues, ideas or thoughts you have or just enjoy the company. Also attending this meeting will be John Hayward-Cripps, South East Regional Manager and Denise Dupont, Divisional Manager for Kent. We are also lucky to be joined by George Dunford, who is the South East Representative on the Assembly and Regional forum. They look forward to meeting you all. For more info please contact your volunteer rep Shirley Collier 01622 741541

Linda's final report

As many of you will know Linda Bailey has retired from Victim Support. Her final day was 23rd July 2010. She will be sadly missed by staff and volunteers alike as she has given many years of dedicated work to training us all.

Training report from Linda Bailey, Area Training Manager for Kent

I owe a huge thank you to all of the volunteers, staff and outside speakers who have made the past 7 years so enjoyable for me. I have said many times how proud I am of our training in Kent. We have an excellent training reputation within Kent and this is thanks to the whole team who have a wealth of knowledge to share.

I greatly admire both the Community and Court volunteers for giving their time so freely and I have found it a delight to work with you all. From a trainer's perspective it is fantastic to work with people who want to be there rather than people who have to be there.

Very best wishes to you all from Linda.

The long haul to Kent raises over £2000



On 12th June 2010 at 05.30am, I found myself, Steve and Mark bleary eyed, posing for pictures outside the Bristol Crown Court. The rest of the day would be heading eastwards to our planned destination, Maidstone Crown Court. There had been a long build up to this which started November 2009, when the idea of a sponsored cycle ride was first conceived. A provisional route was proposed, others coerced into the venture and soon we had a team of riders and a back up crew. Unforeseen weather conditions at the beginning of the year put our training back a bit. It was inevitable that some of the riders were not able to fulfil the demanding training schedule for one reason or another.

By June, we were down to 3 cyclists, which was an advantage as we could stay together during the trip. It was also decided to reverse the route and would end up in Maidstone instead of starting there. We were now starting the long haul to Kent and the miles began to slip by and by, we took turns to be in front and held a good momentum. However, we did have a navigation error, which meant that we had an extra couple miles and hill (Sorry guys!). Thankfully we were met by Les, Jan and Bridget (Victim Support Staff) for our lunch stop. After having refuelled and with lots of encouragement, we set off again and finally arrived in Maidstone at 7pm, having covered 160 miles in 10.5 hours. I would like to thank everyone for your support and at the time of going to press we have raised **£2000** for the Kent Child Witness Service and are still receiving donations! *Lance Fermor*

Welcome to a new staff member at Norman House

Hi my name is Aimee and I am a Victim Care Officer for Victim Support in Kent, although some of you may have heard from me already. My previous job was with the Kent Police in the control room handling the 999 emergency calls, which was challenging at times but opened my eyes to the implications for victims of crime and ultimately encouraged me to want to work with this client group and to try to make a difference.

I was excited about joining Victim Support as having worked in the Police, I became aware of the excellent work that the charity does and the hard work all the staff and volunteers put in. I am looking all set to facing this exciting challenge!



Do you have what it takes?

Victim Support are looking for volunteers all over Kent, with a variety of skills and from many different backgrounds. Can you empathize with others, are you a good listener or do you have the skills to fundraise? These are just a few of the talents used when volunteering with Victim Support. If you are interested please contact the Victim Support Kent office for more information.

VICTIM SUPPORT KENT NORMAN HOUSE BEAVER ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ASHFORD TN23 7SH
TEL 0845 389 9527 VS.KENT@VICTIMSUPPORT.ORG.UK

If you have any news or would like to comment on the Kent newsletter please contact:
Susan Still Tel:01843 296639 or Eloise Newman 01233 618008

email susan.still@victimsupport.org.uk

Deadline for the next newsletter is 10th November 2010.