

PATHWAY NEWS

Dunnock Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 7EX Tel: 01865 714111
Spring 2004 **Reg Charity No: 1014416**

This is the third edition of Pathway News. The last two editions were so well received we have decided to make Pathway News an annual event. Once again we would like to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, all those who have kindly supported the Pathway in the past – through donations, sponsorship, and practical help and continue to do so. We would like to take this opportunity of updating all our supporters of the continued progress we have made since the last edition of Pathway News in Spring 2003.

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Pathway continues to provide fully paid employment to adults with disabilities. We currently have 22 adults working with us both full and part-time, men and women, some only attending for one morning a week. Individual needs are accommodated which enables them to progress at their own pace and within their own capabilities. This is very much part of the Pathway ethos.

OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Update... You may remember 'Fred' and 'Bob' from the last edition of Pathway News. We are pleased to announce that 'Bob' has now moved on to "outside" employment and is doing well, 'Fred' continues to work with us.

For the two new stories in this edition, we'll call them Jack and Jill.

'Jack' came to us through a referral from a friend. He started off part-time (one day a week) as a volunteer and gradually worked his way up to full-time employment. 'Jack' has now been with Pathway for nearly 2 years. He enjoys working and socialising with his fellow workers after work. 'Jack' has varied jobs in the workshop, ranging from firewood to machining. In 'Jack's' own words if he wasn't at Pathway he'd be at home on the dole.

'Jill' came to us in September 2002, as a volunteer working only one morning a week, and with encouragement she worked her way to two mornings a week. She is currently working 3 full days a week, still as a volunteer, and we are hoping, with secured funding, we will be able to take on 'Jill' permanently.

OUR PRODUCTS & SALES

We are continually adding new items to our product range. This last year saw the introduction of our Folding Bench – a park bench which uniquely folds out into a picnic table. We are hopeful of improving sales of this item, which particularly suits the smaller garden.



A new product we are producing is Mushroom Compost; it comes in a 45 ltr bag for the price of £1.30 (there is a small additional charge for delivery).

Although we attended many outside events last year we were disappointing in sales value, but contributed to general awareness of our products. This year we are aiming to sell more products direct to customers from our new showroom here at Pathway. We are also concentrating more on newspaper advertising this coming year.

So look out for us in your local Press!!

OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Unfortunately we have lost our contract for manufacturing and boxing of Garden Games (giant version of Jenga). But we are still continuing with our contracts for preparing and bagging of firewood and the wooden stakes (used for forestry). We have recently acquired a new contract to pack, seal and palletise charcoal for barbeques during the spring/summer months. These contracts are proving very successful.

ENVIRONMENTAL

You may remember last year we recycled over 180 tons of timber which would otherwise have gone to a landfill. This year we have increased this figure by over 44% to 260 tons, and is reflected by increased amount of firewood, stakes and garden furniture we have been able to produce. This inturn, generated an increase in our workforce by five. However, to keep up with demand we find ourselves going further afield to source the timber.

We would welcome any further enquiries from local timber merchants or building companies looking to dispose of good quality soft wood. We are particularly interested in roof trusses, which help to produce stakes.

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING

We continue to receive donations and sponsorship. With these, it would be difficult to keep our workers with disabilities in meaningful employment, while we keep the running costs to a minimum, inflation continues – making the task of seeking donations and fundraising more demanding.

Here at Pathway we are truly grateful to all of our supporters, who have helped Pathway to survive. Every donation we receive does make a difference to this small charity.

In June last year we were fortunate enough to be the recipient of Oxford's Rotary Club annual 'Fun Run' which raised over £1000. Pictured are 'The Pathway Puffers' – one of our workers and their family, running on behalf of Pathway.

We are pleased to announce that this year we will be once again the beneficiaries of this 'Fun Run'. It will take place on Saturday 19th June @ 10.30am at University Parks. This race will be started by our President Andrew Smith M.P. We would love to see you there.



"The Blackbird Bonanza" (the weekly lottery – open to all residents and workers on The Leys) celebrates its 7th Birthday this May and continues to provide much needed funding for Pathway.

The Bonanza team organised a Christmas raffle which proved very successful. They raised over £400 for Pathway and also have over 40 prizes donated. A big thank you to all the members who brought tickets. Recently, The Bonanza awarded a local boy with a cheque for £600 from the 'Estate Kitty' (this is a percentage of money taken from the weekly collection and put aside for good causes). This local lad has a rare form of cancer and is hoping to go on holiday to Butlins with his family.

We wish him and his family well. We might even get a postcard.

THE FUTURE

No one can ever be sure of the future. The cost of running Pathway increases yearly, and it is becoming more difficult to seek further donations. However, Pathway continues to be a well established local charity providing fully paid employment to local people with disabilities. We have many loyal supporters and are confident we have laid good foundations for the future.