



malthouse news

St Matthew Housing -
Housing and support for people in need

Issue 11 - January 2008

New Malthouse Friends Group

The Malthouse Project is now restored and is open to the public. St Matthew Housing (SMH) is no longer fundraising for the restoration part of the project but continues to fundraise for its ongoing social objectives; providing a community resource for people who have been excluded from mainstream education and training to gain a second chance through work experience and onsite training courses.

The Malthouse Friends scheme has been very successful to date and we plan to continue building on our network of Friends throughout the year, offering

even more benefits to our members now that the project is up and running.

SMH is also keen to establish a more active group of Friends to really take this project forward.

This new voluntary Steering Group would help promote, fundraise and assist with planning and organising events for The Malthouse Project.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining the Malthouse Friends Steering Group, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Gillian Peat on tel: 01284 732550 or email volunteers@stmatthewhousing.org. Alternatively, visit our website for more information: www.themalthouseproject.co.uk.



Bury Guides visit The Malthouse Project

Review by Geoffrey Pickess, Guide Member

At the beginning of December, St Matthew Housing entertained a party of Bury's Registered Guides to a tour of The Malthouse Project.

For the Guides, whose general tour of the town takes in the Abbey complex, this was a fascinating place to view, because the original barn building, erected around 1620, was constructed from timber and stone taken from the Abbey after its closure, by order of Henry VIII, some 80 years earlier.

The barn, which later became a maltings until it fell into disuse early in the 20th century, has been beautifully restored and is now a multi-purpose building serving the community. One feature that left a lasting impression on the guides was to learn that some of the larger roof timbers would have been oak saplings when the Romans were in charge in Britannia.



**Treat that special
someone to a
Valentine's meal at
the Kiln Café**



On **Valentine's Day** (Thursday 14th February), the Kiln Café is offering a romantic three course menu for *only* £17.50 per person!

The menu consists of a choice of parma ham or asparagus soup to start, followed by salmon fillet or chicken breast, and either lemon cake or chocolate torte for dessert, with a filter coffee and shortbread heart to complete the meal. Visit www.themalthouseproject.co.uk to view the full menu.

All ladies will receive a *free* valentine gift!

The Kiln Café is taking table bookings between 7pm - 8pm on 14th February. If you would like to book a table, either pop into the cafe or contact Simon Johnson, Catering & Events Manager on tel: 01284 732550.

**Malthouse News - written and designed by
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Volunteer Corner



Interview with Shea, Malthouse Volunteer

How did you hear about volunteering at The Malthouse Project?

I heard about it through my Key Worker at my house (*Shea lives in supported housing*).

How long have you been volunteering at The Malthouse Project?

I have been volunteering for three month's now.

What area of The Malthouse Project do you volunteer in?

I volunteer in the café and kitchen.

How many hours do you help out at the project?

I usually work 9am - 3pm on a Saturday but I help out at other times when I am needed.

What do you do during your time here?

I take customer orders and serve the food

and drinks. I also help prepare some of the food, such as fruit and cheese scones, panini's, salads and the side garnishes.

Have you learnt any new skills? If so, what are they?

Yes, I have learnt such a lot. I have learnt customer service and basic cooking skills. I have learnt how to operate the till and coffee machine. I have also learnt how to work as a team and how a kitchen and café operates.

What do you enjoy most?

The fact that it has increased my confidence and self-esteem, and I enjoy learning new skills.

What is the most rewarding part of volunteering?

The sense of achievement.

Is volunteering at The Malthouse Project how you expected?

I didn't think I was going to be so involved but I am and I really enjoy it. I also like feeling part of a team.

How do you plan to use your new skills in the future?

I hope to get employment in catering or food service. I am also interested in doing the NVQ in Multi-Skills in Catering course at The Malthouse Project.

Would you recommend volunteering at The Malthouse Project to others?

Yes, definitely.

Sue Moss, Training & Catering Co-ordinator at The Malthouse Project said, "*When Shea started he preferred to be in the kitchen as he didn't feel confident enough to be helping out front of house. Now, I have seen a real change in Shea and you can't keep him out of the café! Shea's confidence has really grown in both the café and in the kitchen.*"

Are you tasked with ordering lunches for meetings? Are you looking for a new and local catering supplier? Then look no further.

The Kiln Café provides an outside catering service to businesses within Bury St Edmunds. We can supply cold buffet lunches, such as sandwiches, crisps, fruit, homemade cakes and savoury nibbles, and all orders will be delivered to your door, hassle free. If you would like to get a copy of our price list or find out more, please contact Simon Johnson, Catering & Events Manager on tel 01284 732550 or email simon.johnson@stmatthewhousing.org.