



The Slice

Issue 2 | April 2015

Welcome to Issue 2 of The Slice – the magazine for LIFE staff and volunteers. I hope you enjoy reading it.

It's been a busy three months – you'll see that there are some exciting fundraising plans being developed, shops' and LIFE groups' plans continue to take shape and our Education department is going from strength to strength, reaching more and more new schools.

But perhaps our biggest news is the appointment of LIFE's new Chief Executive Officer (see below) - we look forward to welcoming Stephen soon.

Finally, remember The Slice is an interactive document; simply click on any of the links to find out more. And don't forget to read our blogs too.

Stuart Cowie, Head of Communications

Welcome to our new CEO



The Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Stephen Sharpe as LIFE's new CEO. Stephen has over 20 years' wide experience of charity work (including supported housing), business management,

marketing and fundraising, is a member of the Institute of Directors and has worked as founder and director/CEO of several charities and Community Interest Companies. He takes up his appointment after Easter – and plans to visit LIFE groups, houses, shops and Care Centres quickly thereafter.

Staff Latest

"Annual Induction Day" is on 20 May at head office for all new staff. Invitations will be sent later this month.

Hello and welcome to: Carolyn Paterson, Shop Coordinator – Glasgow, Jason Wignall, Deputy Shop Manager, Wolverhampton, Julie Pennill, Shop Assistant – Stoke on Trent, Lydia Crump, Shop Assistant – Eastleigh, Naomi Karali – made permanent member of staff – Charity Shop Manager – Weymouth, Jessica Ramsay, Support Worker – Bournemouth, Katie Smith, Rent Officer – Head Office, Helen Currie, Regional Education Officer

Farewell and thank you to: Sarah Delap, Iesha Perry, Jennie Crandon, Joanne Morris, Mark Smallwood, Sarah Cook, Sharon Meadows

Baby News

Congratulations to Research and Education Officer Niall Gooch and his wife Rhiannon on the birth of their first child, Alexander.

Congratulations to Gabriela Clemons from Zoe's Place and her husband on the birth of their first child, Robin.



Niall, Rhiannon and Alexander



Robin



Basingstoke Ladies' Choir

Concert

Sunday 26th April 2015, 3pm

*St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Road,
Basingstoke.*

With guests 'Berkshire Brass'

Supporting the 'Life' Charity.

Tickets £8 each (no concessions) available from:

Jan Hodges—01256 781035/07771848437

Or

Chantal Brown—01256 320474

Blackpool

The Care team at Blackpool LIFE decided to launch the Baby Bags Project which offers a bag of goodies to any expectant mother containing toiletries for the new baby and a brand new baby outfit. The bag will also have the leaflet explaining what our service provides.

The bags are being given to Care clients and local children's centres. We have secured a grant of £500 from Blackpool Coastal Housing Project and have presented our project to a number of high schools - all of which have responded enthusiastically.

We will be revisiting each school before Easter and will invite the local press to report it. We hope that the Baby Bags will help to promote LIFE's work in the area.



From The Blog

Overwhelming defeat in the Irish parliament for disability abortion proposal

**CLICK
HERE**

Sheffield - A Blast from the Past

A few months ago I had an anonymous email from someone wanting to know if I was the Eileen who belonged to LIFE in Sheffield. When I replied that I was she said that she had been in the LIFE house in Sheffield over 20 years ago and remembered me being involved.

I tried desperately to recall her, among the other 100+ women who had come to the LIFE house over the years. Later she confirmed that she had had her baby girl adopted and that the child was now living in a town in Yorkshire. She had married and emigrated to Australia, where she had three children. Now she was widowed and something prompted her to contact LIFE. She tried the internet and my name came up as a trustee.

She had never tried to contact her daughter, feeling that things were better left as they were, but she recalled her time in the LIFE house as a time of security and happiness with the other residents. She had come from Ireland, pregnant and unsupported, without her parents knowing, and was feeling very alone.

"You were there for me," she said, "when I had nowhere else to go. I am so grateful to you and all the other housemothers (as they used to be called). I don't know what I would have done without you."

It made everything worthwhile. All the effort that we put into the LIFE house - all the visiting, cleaning, supporting; all the tears and joys, the new babies, the proud mothers, the frightened girls - and all of this done by LIFE volunteers.

A blast from the past indeed how wonderful to get that email!

By Eileen Maher – long-time member of Sheffield LIFE group and LIFE trustee.

Fundraising

We'll take the stress – to help you sweat!

We're looking for people to take part in some exciting national fundraising challenges this year. They don't have to be members of LIFE groups – they can just as easily be your friends or family who would simply like to support LIFE because you do (or you can blackmail them into taking part!).

Would you like to take part, or do you know anyone who might want to participate in the events below?

If you are interested, or just want a bit more information before you go looking for likely participants (or victims, depending on the event), or have some different ideas for a national fundraiser, please call me on 07775 761590 or email me davidbennett@lifecharity.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you!

David Bennett

Tough Mudder

One of the toughest events on the planet, Tough Mudder is a 10-12 mile obstacle course designed to test all-around strength, stamina and teamwork. It's a great spectacle for supporters, too, especially when the participants are shimmying through deep mud with live wires suspended a few inches above their heads... we can raise as much money out of pity for the participants as we can for LIFE!

The Great British Baby Buggython

A walk across the bridges of London or Tyneside pushing a sponsored and decorated buggy. It's great fun and is a light-hearted way of getting the serious message of LIFE across. It is a wonderful opportunity to get DIY mums and dads involved – and some corporate sponsors.

Richmond Running Festival

This takes part in the lovely surroundings of Richmond and Kew gardens and also offers a music festival on top of the running events. There is a mini-children's race along with both a 10k and half marathon run. The event, inspired by the 2012 Olympics includes the whole family and is an ideal day out – bring a picnic.

Shops

New Shops

Bristol, Derby (two shops) and Leeds. Doncaster celebrated its first year in March.

Gift Aid

Congratulations to Derby who raised £6.5k and Rugby who raised £2k in Gift Aid.

Training

Thank you to company GP Strategies who are enabling a number of Shop Managers to take NVQs in Retail & Volunteer Management free-of-charge.

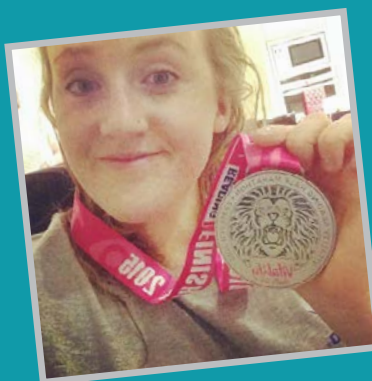
And finally...

Actor Timothy Spall has been using the Blackpool shop to film a movie called Away. The crew has not only used the shop as a set but has bought items from the window to use as props and the volunteers and Manager may be asked to be extras.



Donations of Stock

urgently needed for all shops



Mimi Simpson completed the first of her four 2015 challenges on 22nd March – the Reading Half Marathon. She is determined to reach her target of raising £1,000 for LIFE by completing in another Half Marathon and two Tough Mudder events before the year is through!



David Rose completed the Richmond Half Marathon on Sunday 22nd March in the super quick time of 1 hr 55 min 27 secs! So far he has raised over £350 for Hounslow's LIFE Care Centre.



Education News



I am delighted to welcome Helen Currie to the Life Education team. Helen joined us at the beginning of March and is working alongside Elizabeth Parsons. I have no doubt that together Liz and Helen will do great things for Life Education in the North. So far, we have been unable to recruit a suitable person for her REO position in the London area so if anybody knows anyone who might be suitable for the role then please get in touch with me annescanlan@lifecharity.org.uk

In a society where so much emphasis is placed on choice and personal autonomy, the role of a Life Education Officer is not an easy one. Going into schools and delivering a strong pro-life message can be challenging but

the members of the Life Education team do it with great courage and conviction. By presenting the facts about abortion and other ethical issues, Education Officers give young people the opportunity to explore subjects that they might otherwise never question. The role may be tough but the rewards are great and knowing that you can change hearts and minds is incredibly rewarding. So far this year our Team has delivered 335 talks to 17,447 students and we have managed to get into 16 new schools.

Occasionally universities also ask us to speak so when Oxford came knocking we naturally sent our best and most experienced speaker. I hope you will enjoy reading the feedback we received following Michaela Aston's talk there <http://blog.oxfordstudentsforlife.co.uk/2014/10/25/i-realised-that-you-could-be-pro-life-and-not-be-judging-women-michaela-aston-at-osfi/>. Even when REO's are not working they are still flying the Life flag as you can see from Liz's account of her recent visit to Flame.

Anne Scanlan, Head of Education & Media

From The Blog

The truth about GM babies
– we debunk three myths

**CLICK
HERE**

From The Blog

Almost half of all teenage
girls forced into sexual acts
– what's the answer?

**CLICK
HERE**



Keeping The Flame Alive

I would like to introduce you to Helen Currie – the new North West Education Officer. On 7 March we both attended the largest national Catholic Youth event of 2015 at Wembley Arena. Attended by over 8,000 young people, Flame 2 was host to some of the most inspiring speakers including Cardinal Luis Tagle from the Philippines and Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Travelling as part of the Redemptorist Youth Ministry, we also took advantage of every networking opportunity that presented itself. It's at events such as this that you realise how small a world it truly is, as I met teachers I work with, youth workers, chaplains – even students that had met me in a school; I was often remembered as the 'lady from LIFE'. In these situations, networking happens effortlessly and by the end of the day, we had organised a number of meetings in new schools across the North West.

What's inspiring about these events is that you remember and appreciate how many people there are who support the type of work we do at LIFE – especially young people. The idea behind Flame is that the event is only the beginning – the challenge is to carry the flame with you and spread it everywhere you go. This is how I view the work we do in Life Education; each time we visit a school, we're there to light a spark and who knows how far that flame could spread?



Staff Spotlight

Thomas Gower, (centre) Shops Finance Administrator at Head Office, answered some of our Spotlight questions. If you would like to be next, please email marylubrano@lifecharity.org.uk with your answers to these questions.

What is your earliest memory?

My Nan telling me to put some biscuits back

Which living person do you most admire, and why?

My Grandad. He had a tough childhood and has been through a lot, but nothing seems to faze him. He always puts others first and is the least self-centered person I know. He has some fascinating stories from his time in the Navy and even in his eighties he is still very active.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?

Pessimism.

What is your most treasured possession?

My record collection. I have a few rarities, which although worth a fair bit for what they are, I don't intend to part with.

What makes you unhappy?

Pretty much anything in the news lately, litter, urban sprawl.

What is the worst job you've done?

My first job at 16 working in a supermarket's frozen food department. There is nothing worse than walking into a -18c freezer at 6 in the morning and loading up pallets.

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, although he would be in the kitchen cooking.

If you could go back in time, where would you go?

Neolithic Britain

What is the closest you've come to death?

My sister and I were in a multicar pile-up on the M6 a few years ago. All motorists involved including ourselves came out of it with no scratches incredibly.

How would you like to be remembered?

For being a nice, helpful person.



From The Blog

GM Babies – have our MPs been duped?

**CLICK
HERE**

Development

Please can all groups send a copy of their meeting minutes to Elly at ellypetrucci@lifecharity.org.uk. She'd be delighted to hear more about your work!

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If you have any news from your Group that you would like to be included in this newsletter, then please email Mary Lubrano at Head Office at: marylubrano@lifecharity.org.uk

www.lifecharity.org.uk

 @Lifecharity  /Lifecharity

www.pregnancyhelp.org.uk