



Al Gore at the House

Former US Vice President Al Gore visited the House of St Barnabas in July. Generation Investment Management, a fund management business with offices in London and New York, of which he is Chairman, used the House as the venue for a private dinner.

The evening involved canapés and cocktails in the Chapel, which was beautifully lit for the occasion, followed by a sit down dinner in the Georgian Drawing Room overlooking Soho Square.

Pippa Bagnall, CEO, was invited to be the guest speaker, and talked about the value of investing in people.

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The Chelsea Flower Show

Volunteers from the House of St Barnabas were actively involved in the Eden Project's award winning garden, The Key, at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

"The Key is a catalyst for long-term change and ongoing work"

David, Kai, Nathaniel, John and Robert were part of a national team which helped with this construction and development of the garden.

Howard Jones from the Eden Project and the inspiration behind this initiative said: "The Key is a catalyst for long-term change and ongoing work, by increasing employment prospects for the participants who

have gained new life skills and training through their involvement in this project."

John's interview in the garden with Alan Titchmarsh was later televised at 8pm on Friday evening.



Volunteers from the House of St Barnabas, David (left) and John (right), helping with the set up of The Key garden at this year's show.



Life Skills Programme Update

Our Life Skills programme continues to make a real impact. The aim is to support those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or who have recently experienced homelessness through a transitory and vulnerable stage of their life.

“this has really made me think about what is possible for me”

We now have a vibrant range of activities and the following are a few examples of what is available on the programme:

Some of our volunteers are keeping food diaries as part of the health and nutrition workshops run by Zoue Lloyd Wright. Her energy and enthusiasm for increasing awareness around issues of healthy eating is really leaving a lasting impression. As one volunteer

put it, “the work with Zoue is something I can put into practice for the rest of my life.”

Rasheed Oganlaru, a leading life coach, has donated sixteen hours of his time to deliver a personal development workshop and has been a true inspiration to our volunteers. One volunteer said “...he gives us hope and help to be exactly who we want to be.”

Off to Work have been training our volunteers in events and hospitality, including barista training, bar set up, cocktail training, health and safety in the workplace and how to improve their careers within the industry. They have added a very practical side to the programme and have built a great rapport with the volunteers. As one said, “they have made things I thought I couldn’t do look easy and this has really made me think about what is possible.”

Others that should be mentioned include Maryam Eslamdoust who has

been helping with benefits, cv’s and legal issues, Angela Lenman for her Batik workshops, Grace Gelder who found funding for the photography workshops, Natalie Pilato for her work with the volunteers on music as part of her PHD, Sue Craven for homeopathy and Paul Thompson for reflexology.

Peter Creates a Masterpiece

Peter joined the Life Skills Programme at the beginning of July. One of the projects we have been running is a photography course, funded through a generous grant from Westminster Arts. Each participant is producing a booklet of their choosing. Peter decided that he would update our guide which includes details of the history of the House as well as information about our work as a charity. He is very qualified to undertake this project because he was once a Blue Badge Tour Guide and researched Georgian architecture as part of an MA dissertation.

It has been fun discovering new things about the House, and our guided tours will be even more informative in the future. We are now seeking funding in order for us to print a large number of copies of Peter’s revised version of the booklet.

Please go to the **News** section of our website to read Peter’s commentary of his experience of the Life Skills Programme.



Tom Howat, Building Manager, giving our new volunteers a health and safety induction.



A Wedding for All Seasons



The House of St Barnabas is fast becoming a mainstay in the wedding industry.

The Chapel is licensed for religious services, but can offer Blessings after civil ceremonies and Pastoral Prayers after civil partnerships. Our beautiful Chapel is the perfect location for candlelit winter weddings and summertime garden weddings.

Follow up your wedding with an afternoon in the courtyard garden, the ideal location for photographs and

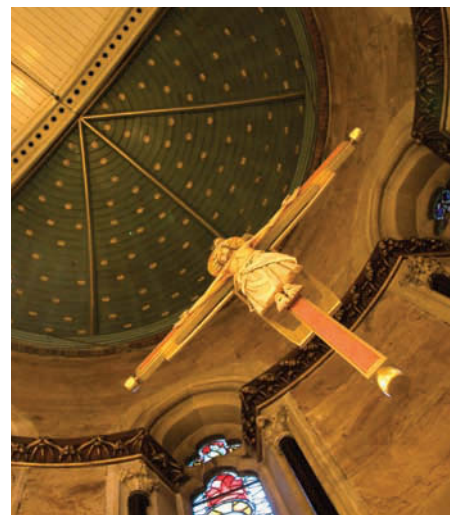
“We couldn’t be more wholehearted in our endorsement of the House of St Barnabas as a venue”

sparkling receptions. Celebrations can continue within the House throughout our suite of historic 18th century rooms. Wedding breakfasts, drinks and dancing can all be organised through our Events Team

and approved suppliers. The friendly and professional team at the House works closely with clients to ensure that their event is a unique and memorable experience.

As one recent bride, Liz Foley, says: “The location is amazing and the venue beautiful. Our guests enjoyed the garden and all the different rooms.

“Everything went swimmingly and we couldn’t be more wholehearted in our endorsement of the House of St Barnabas as a venue.”



Office Press Day

We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from Office, after they held their Autumn/Winter 2009 Press Day at the House in May.

“The grandeur of the House and the many original features provided us with a stunning back drop to our ladies collection. The three historic rooms

allowed us to create a different look in each, reflecting all of our trends for the coming season. Its central location ensured high attendance from all of our key press contacts.

The House of St Barnabas team members were friendly and flexible, assisting us with all of our requirements.”



Second Floor Refurbishment

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Dolphin Square Foundation work is now well underway to convert a floor of dormitories to a wonderful new training facility.

Tom Howat, Building Manager, is the project manager, and there is much excitement amongst staff and volunteers as the works progress. "We were amazed by the size of the rooms when the cubicle partitions were taken down. I reckon we can have classes with about twenty people in each room. I hope very much that one of the rooms will be a computer training suite, we are now seeking sponsorship for the equipment" says Tom.

The furniture and décor will be selected carefully so they

complement the beautiful Georgian architecture. The rooms will be used for a whole range of education and learning activities. Martin Murphy, Life Skills Co-ordinator, is evaluating our current programme and the lessons learnt will help us determine what courses and activities are part of our future Life Skills Programmes.

How You Can Help

To find out about how you can support the work of the House of St Barnabas, please visit the **How You Can Help** page on our website.

Guided Tours at the House

The House of St Barnabas in Soho has a fascinating history. Guided tours of the House and Chapel are available with Angela Lenman, a City of Westminster guide.

For details of dates and times please contact enquiries@hosb.org.uk



Social Enterprise

Venue Hire at the House of St Barnabas is a Social Enterprise that enables the charity to support homeless and vulnerable people. Social enterprises are businesses which trade in goods or services for a social purpose. For the House of St Barnabas, the business both generates income through the hiring out of the venue, and provides work experience opportunities for the individuals on our charitable programmes.

Whether it is health, education or employment opportunities, the beautiful environment that is the House of St Barnabas contributes to an inclusive society, and by simply holding events at the house our customers do too.

To find out more about Social Enterprise, visit the **Our Work & Partners** page on our website.

Recent Grants

We are very grateful to the following companies for their generous grants and donations:

Coram Trust
G.M. Morrison Charitable Trust
Ofenheim Charitable Trust
Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust
SPARK Challenge
Stanley Foundation
Woodroffe Benton Foundation
Worshipful Company of Gardeners

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