

## **The history of Kingston Mencap 1982-2003**

### **1982**

- Mencap added '& Adults' to its formal name which we followed, but we are now known as Kingston Mencap.
- Feasibility study into building a hall for Kingston Mencap use.

### **1983**

- A 20-seater bus to include wheelchair users.
- Sub Committee set up to evaluate possible involvement of Homes Foundation in an area, continued work needed on feasibility of own hall.
- First computer bought for the Causeway.

### **1984**

- An Area Management committee was formed from Homes Foundation sub committee.
- We changed regions within Royal from South East to Metropolitan Region.
- Publication of Health Strategic Plan 1985 – 1994, exciting but change of use of small.
- Thames Ditton Cottage Hospital caused considerable reaction from local residents.
- Work started on a house in Red Lion Road for six youngsters. Community nurses used our bus to take youngsters for a holiday to Dymchurch.
- Residents moved into Fairlawn.

### **1985**

- Three youngsters from Maple Unit moved into Red Lion Road.
- Youth club moved to the Causeway.
- Shaw Trust went into the Causeway and links were formed with Kingston College of Further Education.
- Unexpected changes to the new Registration of Homes Act came into being in January 1985 caused one casualty, Coombe Oak. To meet the regulations would have been too costly and so a decision was taken to pull it down.
- Battle over Thames Ditton Hospital came to an end opening the way for a whole new concept of planning and caring for PLD.
- Homes Foundation Committee purchased a house subject to planning permission to extend to six single bedrooms and one double.
- In October we adopted the new constitution along with other Local Societies enabling Royal Mencap to deal with Government Departments and Charity Commission to speak for us.

- A letter was sent to all members re the ending the feasibility study on own hall due to escalating costs and length of time incurred

## **1986**

- Youth Club changed its name to Kingston Mencap Seekers Club.
- Resource centre at Thames Ditton due to open autumn 1987.
- Royal Mencap celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> year, the reception was at St James Palace at which we were represented. Work started on new Maple Child Development at Wolverton Avenue prior to Maple Ward transfers.
- Our first 'Any Questions' Health and Social Services, Education and Causeway all represented.
- Work going well on Homes Foundation House hoping to be ready to open in May.
- Dysart celebrated 21 years.

## **1987**

- The Garth at 8 Penrith Road opened with eight residents six from the community who had known each other for a long time, with two from Botley joining them. A quote from a report 'Members who visited were most complimentary. The house spoke for itself and we feel will do much for future confidence of parents. Good relations were established with the many people in the road that called in response to invitations through doors. Members of Health and Social Services all said they had much to live up to.'

## **1988**

- Special Care Unit at Causeway at present used for Special Needs Group.

## **1989**

- A second house has been purchased by Homes Foundation.
- We lost Mr Ken Foggan, Manager of the Causeway since its inception, but are grateful for all his forward thinking and the exciting new developments he left in place with our young people participating in the activities and training at the Kingston College of Further Education. Also to the people who have gone out into employment through his initial liaison and contact with the Shaw Trust.

## **1990**

- Four bungalows on Coombe Oak site were opened.
- Hold up in Special Care unit ready for school leavers.
- Mrs Chris Conacher elected Honorary Vice-Chairman at the Annual General Meeting.

## **1991**

- The new Homes Foundation house was opened in Traps Lane.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> June the new Special Care Extension was opened.

## **1992**

- Kingston Mencap celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Coombe Hill Golf Club.
- Mrs Chris Conacher was awarded the MBE for services to Mencap.
- Local Government Boundary Commission recommended Dysart Avenue and Dukes Avenue remained in the boundary of Kingston and not Richmond a decision swayed by members letters.
- I.P.P. (Individual Personal Plan) brought in.

## **1993**

- Royal Mencap decided to retire 'LITTLE STEPHEN' and the new logo 'MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE' was launched with five different images were available to use.
- Causeway found that they did not have the power to make the nominal wage to clients that go to a Social Services Day Centre.

## **1994**

- The second Day centre planning application was approved on the 27th September. With Warren Gate planning application to be submitted in November, with H.F.T. putting in an application for purchasing a property in Surbiton.
- Refurbishment work had also started at Fairlawn, and on re-opening there will be an independent housing facility on the second floor with higher support for residents on the first floor. Our Society gave a large donation to help with the refurbishment
- The open day at Woodbury had gone very well, the transformation had been done with great thought. For those of us who visited seeing the bedrooms for the multi-handicapped meant a very, very great deal.
- We had a representative at the Annual General meeting of Royal Mencap held in Blackpool.

## **1995**

- Our Chairman attended an Autism Seminar and reported that the numbers attending was excellent. The three speakers gave their services free and our Society was thanked for the

financial help for the event. It was felt that the theme of the meeting was for the more able, but that it was good to see parents getting the chance to act as a group and air their views.

- Kingston Mencap also agreed to assist with the refurbishment of Fairlawns and had donated over £12000.00 pounds to this project.
- The project for the new HFT Centre was launched by HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Hawes and Mrs Conacher were presented to her at what was a very good evening.
- An 'Any Questions' evening was held in July, which was attended by several speakers, and reasonably well supported.
- The Kingsdowne Club held at Woodbury is being completely restructured, and are presenting a VICTORIAN EVENING, to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. They also stated that they were 'Fully Staffed for the first time in 18 Months'.
- Seekers Club made application to become Gateway Members.
- Some Causeway clients were to visit Paris for trips to workshops and Kingston Mencap donated towards this, after which two committee were invited to view the photographs of this event.
- The usual Christmas Donations were made.

## **1996**

- The new Day Centre had an open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> April many parents came to view the Facilities therein.
- Causeway entered a team for the Super Sports and from a talk given by Maria Dowling had done very well.
- At a Mencap London Division Meeting the Mencap Campaigns officer spoke about The Short Term Breaks Bill which was of interest, once again we find ourselves very lucky in this area with the amount of short term care available. A report from our District Officer on the Local Society Charter, tendered by The Focus Group, The Group had previously responded to a draft of the charter and were disappointed that the main resolution and concern they had raised had not been accepted. The concern had been that the draft stated the responsibilities of Local Societies in detail but made no attempt to comment on the responsibilities of Royal Mencap.
- The successful Medal winners from the Super Sports visited the Mayors Parlour and then to meet the Council. Kingston Mencap held a Fish & Chip supper at the Causeway in November for members and this was a great success, with many of our own lads and lassies attending, Captain Bob entertained teas and coffee were provided with members bringing their own wines and beers.
- Seekers club appointed two new co-leaders for a trial period of six months. - and in 2002 are still going strong.

- A request from Warren Park for financial assistance towards various equipment had been received and it was agreed that we donate £2000.00 towards the cost.

## **1997**

- Three officers of Kingston Mencap attended London Division re further discussion on developments for Mencap's future. Not much more gleaned from the meeting since Croydon's nominee took up lot of the meeting with how new developments were covered by the Constitution. Difficulties of learning disability representatives joining meetings recognised but this increased with having to cope with travelling all over the country for meetings. Still astonished at only Nominee Members being members of Royal Mencap and after discussion it was felt we should have a representative at EAGM In Birmingham. A meeting with Mencap District Officer was arranged for the Committee to discuss the Family Advisor Service and a legacy to be used in the Kingston Borough.
- A 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner dance was held at the Royal Oak New Malden in October and was enjoyed by many members and friends.

## **1998**

- A grant of £51,000 for use in Kingston area has been granted. This to set up a PATHWAY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME. It being back dated to 1st January 1998 for one year and must be reapplied for. It was felt it was a first step for the Kingston area. The funding would allow for a Full Time Officer and a Job Coach who in turn would invite 45 people to join the scheme by the end of April – Candidates taken from mainly the Causeway and HFT Centre's. It was insisted that all participants should have their places at the Day Centre kept open for them in case training was unsuccessful. Mencap had agreed to sponsor until March 1999 whatever the bid for another grant.
- The Primary Health Care Centre was discussed at a Liaison meeting, and it was felt the Fountain Workshop should be purchased to rebuild the two centre's and move into new buildings. And then the Primary Health Care Centre could be built on the remaining land. Discussions went on through the year, with Jenny Webb agreeing to meet with Carers and offered to meet individually to discuss each case.
- Tripartite set up between Kingston and Richmond to start in April 1999.
- We met the Royal Mencap to discuss the setting up a Family Advisor Service for the 19-year plus using a legacy left by a member.
- Warren Park official opening under National Children's Homes.

## **1999**

- Committee was represented at Tripartite Trust meeting. 45 invited 23 attended, many subjects were discussed with attendees going into different groups – we attended Day Services and Residential group. The overall feeling was that to-days standards must be kept if not improved across the board, but the crux of the matter is finance.
- We also attended a Services Development group at the Causeway, discussed questionnaire using symbols for user input. This being done with the speech and language therapist at the centre Plans will be going to council in of local societies
- All members of Kingston Mencap on payment of £1.00 were invited to join Royal Mencap , only 39 members took up the offer.
- The proposed development of Causeway/Millennium Centre had received planning permission. However a problem had arisen with new rules regarding rents. Alternate accommodation was being considered at Springboard and the old Social Security building in Burlington Road. In August it was stated that the Millennium Centre would not proceed. Future use of the Causeway to be reviewed.
- The Family Advisor post has been advertised and it is anticipated that someone will be in post in November. (Ms Maria Burke appointed).
- Nominee members of local societies were no longer in being as all Royal Mencap members will be able to represent their views.
- Two gentlemen raised £425 from sponsorship whilst taking part in the Great North Run.
- The first Tripartite newsletter was received.
- Mr Ruston gave new make up of Personnel Management of Tripartite set up.
- A part time Leisure Co-ordinator had been appointed by RBK.
- The Learning for Life conference at Bournemouth was attended and included the Royal Mencap AGM.
- The plans for the proposed changes at the Causeway had been shelved until the June Meeting of the planning committee.
- The second Tripartite newsletter was received with Kingston Mencap's article included.

## **2000**

- The Leisure co-ordinator appointed by RBK has also undertaken working with KVA as co-ordinator for new 'Befriending Scheme'. This overlaps with the 'Buddy' scheme so it has been proposed to combine.
- A Committee member reported on a launch of new group 'Kingston Special Needs Project' run by parents for parents.
- Marie Leonard of Royal Mencap as appointed as voluntary sector representative on the Tripartite Board.

- Two Befrienders have been recruited before the Publicity campaign.
- .The Family Advisor Service was launched at the United Reform Church on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- A Richmond & Kingston Community Care Group was agreed to in principle.
- A Bridge evening was arranged to assist raise funds. Well attended.
- The summer visit to the Model Railway was once again an important day in our calendar.
- The new Youth Club is to be affiliated to Chessington Youth Club, this will give it charitable status.
- The Best Review Plan is to start across Kingston & Richmond.
- Woodbury's open day would start with their Drama Production hopefully netting more customers.
- A Gold award had been gained at the Hampton Court Flower Show – exhibited by Richmond and Kingston clients at the Avenue and Causeway.
- The Senior party time was changed from afternoon to early evening with a Fish & Chip supper.
- A member's son had been selected to walk in the Queen Mother's Birthday Parade for Mencap in recognition of his marathon run.
- Social Services thanks for Pathway monies which would prop up the Pathway Services until next submission to EEC for funding. Said goodbye to Lucy Davis who managed Pathway.
- July of this year saw the closure of Dysart transferring from Ham to Ewell Road, Surbiton, unfortunately the re-opening was slightly delayed. We gave financial help to assist with this problem.

## **2001**

- Donation made to Dysart of £2500 for each classroom to have television video sets with stock library cassette player and cameras for pupils.
- K.S.N. were given £1000 to purchase computer.
- Video library set up at Causeway in memory of Mr Trigg.
- Mencap Advisory Service set up 'Drop In' once a week at New Malden.
- Mencap Family Information Service's contract ended.
- Richmond and Kingston Learning Disability Group set up.
- Member of Committee attended Human Right Conference.
- We received a further substantial donation from Mrs Elsdon in memory of her husband.
- Best Value Reviews took place on Day Care and Residential.
- Royal Society took decision that local society members automatically entitled to Royal Membership.

- Royal also advised local societies that it was now left to them to apply for police permits for the Flag Day, unfortunately too late for us to organise in full. As most of our pitches are on 'Private Ground'.
- Not on the street we were able to have a smaller collection which was successful.
- A request from HFT for donation towards garden refurbishment at the new house in Thetford Road was received and agreed.
- Social Services Carers Directories were sent out along with Helpline Cards from Royal.
- Dysart was the first school in the county to receive a government highest standard award for 'Work Experience' - what a long way they have come from early days.
- The news of the collapse of the Tripartite Scheme was received.
- Discussions took place re our minibus and it was decided not to renew, and to apply to the Kingston and Richmond Community Transport. Drivers all agreed to take the tests required.

## **2002**

- After many years of valuable service to Kingston Mencap we were very sorry to lose Mrs Glenys Stamford from our committee.
- The Family Advisor Service said goodbye on 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- Also after many years we said goodbye to our own mini bus, but it was not lost to sight as Pond Farm had it from us.
- Officers attended Mencap's presentation of Government's White Paper 'Valuing People'.
- The year started with a series of goodbye's as we said a fond farewell to Maria Dowling and also Petra Smillie from Dysart.
- We were also represented at the launch of the new premises of Kingston & Richmond Accessible Transport, whose mini buses we use for Seekers Club.
- Committee was invited to view the new garden at HFT Thetford Road to which Kingston Mencap had contributed.
- Our Chairman received invitation to attend the Queens Jubilee visit to Kingston.
- A celebratory Dinner Dance was to be arranged for Kingston Mencap's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to be held at the Motspur Park Private Members club where some 98 members and friends attended. Among the guests were the wife of our first Chairman and her family. Those who attended all agreed the evening a success, especially in greeting many old friends and being able to reminisce, to look forward to the future and being able to say 'look what our sons and daughters can and have achieved' and more to come in 2003.

## **2003**

- One of our first requests for financial assistance was from the Causeway Centre to help with the costs of special equipment, this the committee was pleased to be able to assist and a donation of £2000 was made.
- The Charity Commission accepted our constitutional changes.
- It was also agreed to the continuance of the Derby Draw, and that the Christmas Fayre would be re-introduced.
- A meeting took place as to the possibility of the Cocks Crescent Development, three committee members attended.
- Owing to the lack of interest the Annual Junior Party was cancelled.
- The usual trip to the Model Railway was once again arranged and all who attended enjoyed their afternoon.
- Royal Mencap Society closed their Kingston Office.
- In commemorating our 50 years, and as we had received a request Honorary Membership was bestowed to Mr & Mrs. Tom Wightwick along with Mrs. Glynis Stamford for their unstinting work for Kingston Mencap and Seekers Club.
- A date for the first Chat Café Coffee morning was received and would be held at the Y.M.C.A. in Surbiton.
- A leaflet was sent to all families explaining the Kingston Advocacy for Learning Disabilities service.
- A new respite facility opened at Chamberlain Way.
- Mrs. Stephanie James was appointed Head of Dysart
- In continued celebration of 50 years it was decided that we would increase our donations to all our recipients towards their Christmas Festivities.
- The Christmas Fayre was very well attended, although the weather on the day could not have been worse.
- At the year-end we said our farewells to Mr Stewart Ruston and Maria Dowling who left Royal Kingston for new ventures. We wish them well, and thank them for their dedication.

*Details have been taken from Minutes, Liaison Reports, and other Documents to help bring the History of Kingston Mencap to date.*

*December 2003*

*2004-2012 Bringing us up to 60th Anniversary and present day currently being written.*