As we glide into the season of spring the changes to the world around us are increasingly apparent and unanimously welcomed. Those dark mornings and barren landscapes are gradually replaced with bird songs and fields of colour. There is something about this seasonal shift which encourages positivity and an uplifting of mood. The ever increasing colour and new life which surrounds us brings with it themes of recovery, regrowth and reinvigoration.

In a sense the process of the emergence of spring can act as a metaphor for our work at the Friary. So many of our visitors feel like they are stuck in an endless barren winter of debt, homelessness or substance misuse and our task is to gradually move them towards a brighter outlook on life comprising of recovery, regrowth and reinvigoration.

This task is one which seems particularly challenging this year as we are expecting an increase in the number of people needing assistance once the welfare reforms begin to be imposed in April 2013. The Department for Work and Pensions social fund is being disbanded and Local Authorities will hold the responsibility for delivering crisis services to local residents. These schemes will, however, be focusing on specific needs and will offer limited support. In short the emergence of these new localised schemes represents a scaling down of the amount of emergency support available to benefit claimants. In addition the widely publicised ‘Bedroom Tax’ will be imposed, restricting some Housing Benefit claimants to a reduced amount of benefit. April also brings with it the emergence of the localised ‘Council Tax Support Schemes’ with most benefit claimants now having to pay around 8% of their council tax bill.

These reforms present a real challenge to people who are already stretched to the limit. However, at the Friary we are confident that by working creatively and with much dedication we can continue to thaw the cold effects of poverty and enable vulnerable people to move into a brighter existence full of positivity and prolonged recovery.
With July’s celebration event fast approaching the Butterfly Campaign is starting to be able to boast some significant success stories.

Since the official launch of the campaign in October 2012 over 70 local businesses have been approached by Friary representatives who have invited them to involve themselves in our work. Businesses have been invited to offer support in various ways such as planning and implementing creative fundraising activities or volunteering employee’s time. The Friary believe that through offering such support businesses are able to enable their staff to involve themselves in group activities which both support our charitable services and unify their staff team and increase staff retention. In addition they are able to demonstrate to their clients or customers that their business takes seriously its place in the local community and is actively responding to a social need. The partnership being proposed by the Friary is one with reciprocal benefits to both the charity and the business.

Since the launch we have managed to secure partnerships with some prestigious corporate organisations who have offered various types of support:

- Price Waterhouse and Cooper LLP have been delivering employability drop-in services to our clients delivering interview skills training and CV writing.
- Capital One’s marketing department have nominated us as one of their charities of the year and are planning some fundraising events.
- Boots continue to support us by donating toiletries and offering employee’s time in volunteering.
- Experian Global Technology Systems have nominated us as their charity of the year and have offered a significant number of volunteering hours. Experian employees have volunteered their time to undertake tasks ranging from sorting of donations to painting and cleaning the premises. You can read in more detail about this particular partnership on the page opposite.

The Friary has been really touched and encouraged by the involvement of these corporate firms and is truly thankful for all the support that they have given. We are keen to continue working with these partners and explore new partnerships with local businesses. In particular the Friary would be interested in talking to local Small to Medium Sized Enterprises who might be interested in becoming involved in the campaign.

If your business would like to share in our success story and help us ensure services are available for vulnerable people in Nottingham please contact us on 01159825448 or email our Business Manager at sam.crawford@the-friary.org.uk

James Masding from Experian has this to say about Experian’s involvement in the Butterfly Campaign:

Experian sees corporate responsibility as a key role that organisations should play in the community within which they operate. Being supportive of the areas where we live and work is a great way to give back to those communities. To further its corporate responsibility efforts, Experian’s Global Technology Services (GTS) team based in Nottingham formed a partnership to volunteer with the Friary in autumn 2012. This volunteering partnership provides the Friary with access to resources that Experian GTS has at its disposal in the UK and across the globe. In real terms this means that over 200 people in Experian GTS are directing the use of their charity give back days to the Friary.

To date this has included everything from installing donation boxes in Experian offices, making soup and serving drinks through to sending in teams to re-decorate spaces in the Friary building. With plans to run the partnership for a minimum of a year there are many more opportunities to get involved with the Friary in the future. Currently Experian is scheduling regular volunteer attendance to help run the allotments where the soup vegetables are grown, helping with the bi-monthly sales and continuing the support both behind the scenes and during open sessions.

Perhaps the most exciting project running between the Friary and Experian GTS is the development of a new IT suite. Experian GTS will provide the practical assistance with decoration and furniture, and take it a step further using their in house expertise to build and deliver training designed to develop the critical IT skills of the centre visitors, who must address government requirements for assistance services and benefits to be accessed online.

This partnership benefits Experian too, developing the breadth of experience of its people, and encouraging cross team collaboration. Everyone from Experian GTS who has worked at the Friary to date has reported back what a fantastic fulfilling experience they have had, how much they enjoyed meeting the Friary’s visitors, and working with the existing team of volunteers.

The Friary is a fantastic organisation providing critical services to a wide range of people. Experian GTS is proud to be a partner and contribute to the continuing success of The Friary.

Thanks again,

James
Have you ever wondered how your life has panned out, whether you have been a success or a failure?

Have you ever asked yourself what if I had gone the other way, whether it is right or wrong? I could carry on saying “have you ever” but have you really thought about your actions, decisions, methods, ways, etc, you must have thoughts of what if, what might have been, if only! The biggest thing in people's lives is pressure, school pressure, peer pressure, gang pressure, all sorts of pressure!

I was called a failure at 10 years of age, when I failed my 11 plus exam, society puts a lot of pressure on people. How can you fail at 10 years of age? The 11 plus exam shaped my life, coming back to what I have said, I have always wondered what would have happened if I had passed my 11 plus, would I have still turned out the same or would I have had more opportunities. Failure is a seven letter word, but it has a massive meaning, especially in a person's upbringing, it can be devastating to some people. What people do not realise is there is a very thin line between success and failure.

But what is failure? What is measured as failure to somebody might not be failure to somebody else. People say they have failed exams at 16 years or 18 years, but just because they haven't got the grades they wanted “have they really failed”? People lose their jobs but have they really failed. I really think the word FAILLED should be taken out of the English language; it is such a negative word and gives the wrong perspective in life.

How can a person failure if they have been trying? Not everyone can get to the top. If everybody was top, nobody would be at the bottom.

You should read this and this should put things in perspective for you.

There is no such thing as FAILURE, well not in my book, or anyone else's book, not even societies. How can you judge success? You might have loads of money, live in a big house, nice wife, 2 or 3 children, fast car, but if you are not happy with yourself, is that success or failure? You cannot really judge!

If people are happy and content in life, success and failure doesn't come into the equation. Anyway I will let you make up your own minds in what way you think.

Richard Bostock
Friary Visitor
INTRODUCING OUR NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, LINDSAY KNOTT

I am delighted to have been appointed as Volunteer Coordinator.

I am look forward to working with the Friary team of volunteers, staff, trustees, visitors and the community to fulfil the potential of this exciting new post.

I hope my experience and skills along with my passion for the Friary and volunteering will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the fantastic work done by all at the Friary.

I have been involved with the Friary for a while – volunteering for the drop in and assisting with the visitor’s user group. Last May I designed and delivered training for the drop in volunteers and I was privileged to meet with several visitors, supporting them to share their stories for this year’s annual report.

I am fortunate to have also spent my working life supporting volunteering and community activity and have been involved in a range of volunteering projects across the country. I have been back in Rushcliffe for seven years; six of those have been working at Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service.

I have designed and delivered a wide range of training for volunteers – including listening and communication skills, equal opportunities, committee skills and trustee roles and responsibilities.

My dedication to volunteering comes from personal and work experience of its value to individuals, people using services, organisations and the wider community and society.

Volunteers enhance an organisation – they bring time, skills, experiences, ideas and we all know the Friary would not survive without its 150 committed and volunteers.

I am privileged to have been asked to join the Friary staff team as the organisation faces new challenges and welcomes new opportunities. I am dedicated to continuing and developing the involvement of volunteers – both existing and new – and to ensure that they have a worthwhile, enjoyable and valued experience.

The Friary has always made me feel at home and I look forward to being able to make a bigger contribution to the Friary Community.

OUR NEW TREASURER, DAVID SHAW

My name is David Shaw and I am very much looking forward to joining the Friary team as Treasurer. I am 66 years old and have lived in Nottingham all my life and in West Bridgford for the last 37 years. I am married to Jean, a retired nursery nurse, who has helped out at the Friary for a number of years. We have three sons, the youngest of whom also helps out at the Friary. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant at Price Waterhouse and since qualifying I have worked in the crane and plant hire industry. I currently work as Financial Director for HTC Plant Ltd. at Sheffield and we supply tower cranes to the construction industry nation wide. I have recently taken the first step to retirement and am now working three days a week. My hobbies are cricket, still playing for Bridgford Legion CC, and I am an avid supporter of Nottingham Forest. I also enjoy gardening. I have helped Jean at the Friary for a couple of years serving refreshments after the Sunday evening service and I consider it a great privilege to be associated with this wonderful organisation which does so much good work in the community.

SECOND HAND BARGAIN SALES

- Saturday 11th May 2013
  10am-12 midday
- Saturday 6th July 2013
  10am-12 midday

At the Friary
46 Musters Road, West Bridgford,
NG2 7PR
All proceeds go to the Friary

Please check our website
www.the-friary.org.uk
for information on upcoming events.

Fashion Show
Thursday April 11, 7 for 7.30 pm
at Holy Spirit Church Social Club, Melton Road, West Bridgford.
Tickets £5, available from the Drop-In Centre. Raffle. Refreshments available.

Concert
‘How Can I Keep From Singing’
Featuring the Nottingham Bluecoat Singers.
Saturday May 25 at 7.30 pm
at St Giles Church, West Bridgford.
Tickets £5, available from the Drop-In or on the door. Raffle. Nibbles and wine for sale.
WHAT IS THE FRIARY DROP-IN?

The Friary exists to assist local disadvantaged people who are homeless, living in temporary accommodation or vulnerable from long-term unemployment.

The Friary offers free support services such as advice, access to health services, tenancy support and employment skills. Recreational, educational and leisure time pursuits, along with essential social welfare provision all add to our visitors’ quality of life.

The Friary is a faith based organization receiving substantial support from local churches and the community. The Friary is open to people of all faiths or none.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Access to health services, including GP and drugs counsellor
- Confidential information and advice
- Practical welfare provision
- Shower and laundry
- Hairdressing / Barber
- Cafe offering soups and snacks
- Outreach services
- Tenancy support
- Sunday Evening Fellowship

WHERE TO FIND US

46 Musters Road
Nottingham NG2 7PR
Phone 0115 982 5448
Fax 0115 982 7228
admin@the-friary.org.uk

General Manager; Ann Bremner
Business Manager; Sam Crawford

FRIARY DROP-IN OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Sunday Evening Fellowship
8.00 pm - 9.00 pm

www.the-friary.org.uk