

New staff at Community House!



Natalie Smith pictured on the right and **Dawn Smith** (no relation) have recently started at the Wisbech Community house. Natalie joined a few months ago and left a managers position at St Mathews homeless hostel. She replaces Carl Suckling who returned to Norfolk County Council. Dawn Smith has been a volunteer at the House for a number of years and decided to start working for the house and has been and continuing to be a positive role model for the community. **Natalie** pictured on the right said *"My goal is to build relationships with the local community I love the way I feel so at home in the community house and enjoy meeting the people that come in"*. **Community House and the Oasis Centre** have many activities on during the summer, starting with health walk starting at the Oasis Centre every Wednesday at 11am for 25 to 60 minutes.

Learning Champions at the Oasis!

Pictured from left to right our new learning Champions Katy, Paula and Penny. They all use the Oasis Centre on a regular basis and have recently volunteered to become Learning Champions. Nik Mason our Marketing Manager sat down with them and asked a few questions about what they think about the Centre and the Learning Champion scheme.

Why did you become Learning Champions?

Penny replied "I wanted to find information about different courses and be informed enough to tell others about the many opportunities available to them."

Where did you find out about becoming a Learning Champion?

Katy said, "It was Chris Stevens at the Oasis Centre who gave me leaflets with the information about volunteering and also Wendy Stevenson who gave me informed advice on what would be expected of me."

How has it benefited you?

Katy said, "After attending a few courses at the Oasis centre it has changed my outlook. This may sound a little dramatic but it has changed my life, I feel so much more confident and able to tackle anything."

Paula also said, "I'm the same, I've really come out of my shell since being at the Oasis Centre and it doesn't matter how old or young you are or what you look like. People at the Oasis do not judge you they talk to you as an equal; I feel so comfortable to be myself."

Where do you want to go from here?

Penny and Katy said, "We both would like to gain more qualifications through courses that are available at the Centre and to help others to realise their potential in the same way we have. Also we enjoy coming to the centre as we can get out of the house and socialise. The staff are all friendly and we don't

feel talked down to." **Paula also said**, "I'm not looking for a job at the moment as I have young children but I like to come down to meet people, which is why I have set up the Oasis coffee mornings." The next coffee morning is on the 4th of August. Everyone at the Oasis would like to thank the girls for their help and thanks them for the excellent job they are doing helping the Oasis Community Centre.



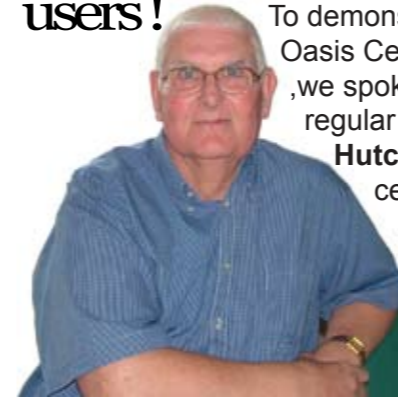
Health Day

Health day at the Oasis was held which offered advice and information concerning health issues. Among the topics covered were sexual health, eating well and even help on growing your own food.

Below is a visitor standing in front of one of the many stands at the event, finding out information about the Ormiston childrens charity. If you are worried about your health, information is available at your local GP Surgery.



Comments from regular Oasis users!



To demonstrate the change the Oasis Centre has gone through, we spoke to a few of our regular visitors. **Dennis Hutchingson** said, "The

centre has definitely improved over the past 3 years and the atmosphere in the centre is brilliant, all

the staff are friendly and welcoming and since Chris and Nik started working there they have made a big difference to the overall centre and new activities. We especially enjoy the Bingo and indoor kurling."



Lynne Hayden from **Age Concern** who uses the centre three days a week said "Speaking on behalf of myself, my staff & the service users, I wish to say a big thank you to all the staff at the Oasis Community & Childrens Centre. We have been supported 100% from day one. The

disabled access & facilities are excellent. We have been made to feel welcome & the older people are made to feel part of the community.

No request is too much trouble to the staff at the centre. We look forward to spending many years to come at the Oasis."

Lynne Hayden
Age Concern Cambridgeshire
Tel: 01945 461526

Police at the Oasis

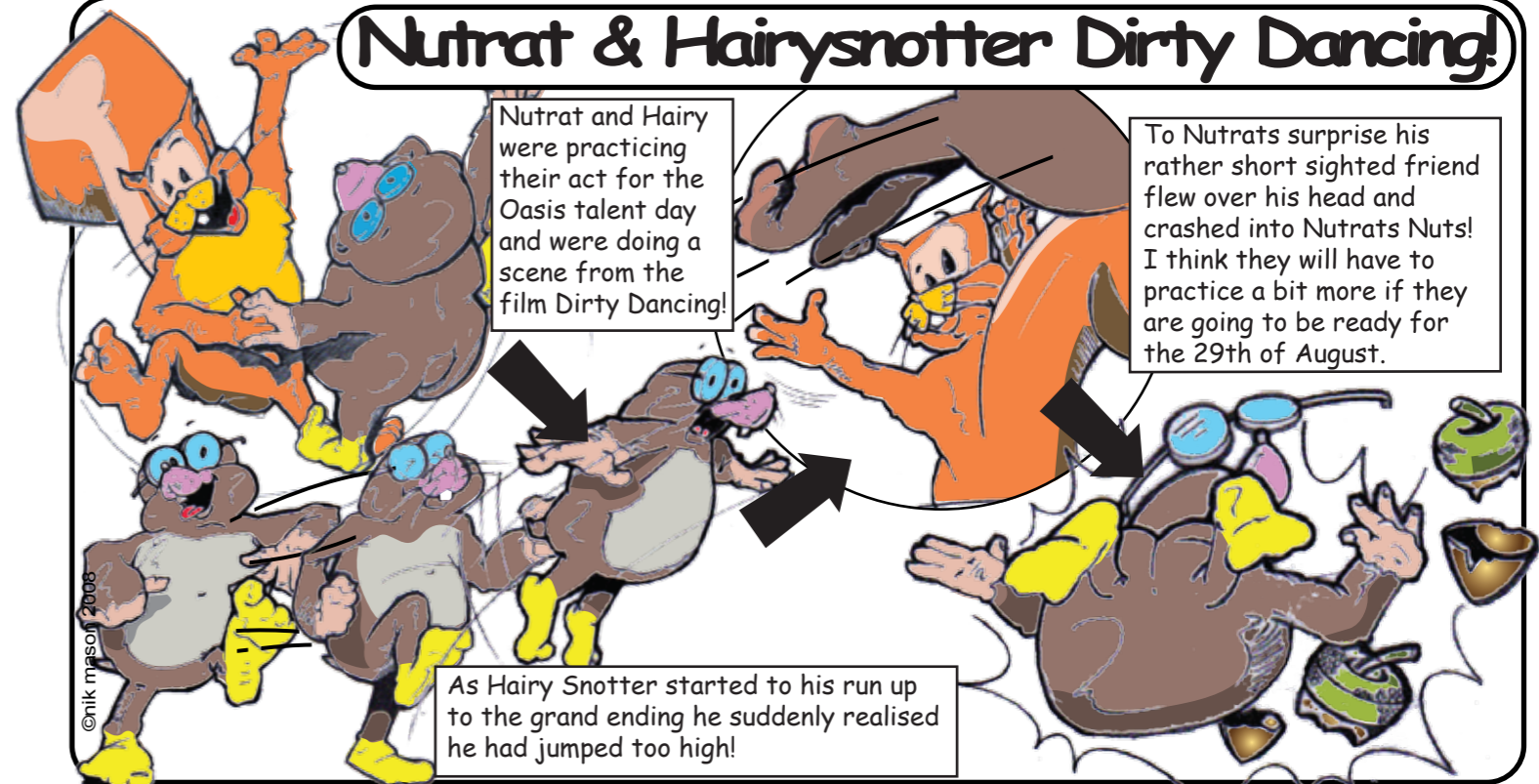
Pictured below are a few local residents meeting with Wisbech police who came down to the centre as part of the Neighbourhood forum. It started at 7pm and proved to be popular, as people felt safe and secure in the Oasis centres meeting room. This is an ongoing project and the next one be held soon at the Oasis. Ring 01945 461526 for details or go to our what's on page online at www.theoasiscentre.co.uk.



There is also a online service run by the police which is open for people to contact. For more information go to www.cambs-police.co.uk and follow the e-cops link.



Nutratt & Hairysnotter Dirty Dancing!



Nutratt and Hairy were practicing their act for the Oasis talent day and were doing a scene from the film Dirty Dancing!

To Nutratts surprise his rather short sighted friend flew over his head and crashed into Nutratts Nuts! I think they will have to practice a bit more if they are going to be ready for the 29th of August.

As Hairy Snotter started to his run up to the grand ending he suddenly realised he had jumped too high!