



# Next Step Forward

The official newsletter of  
**The Next Step Trust**

**ISSUE 12 Spring 2010**

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## Let It Snow...

The two weeks leading up to Christmas saw the first big snow at The Next Step Trust, and many of the planned festivities were under threat. Thanks to the commitment and determination of the staff, our Next Steppers were not left disappointed! The majority of 'lunches out' and theatre trips took place as planned (*see inside*) and the centre was only closed for 3 days.

Parent and volunteer Phil Naylor (*pictured*) worked really hard to clear the car park, and Megan from The Community Foundation, whose offices are upstairs in the centre, lent a hand at snow shovelling. Many thanks to them. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Also a huge and heartfelt thanks to those dedicated members of our staff who donned their wellies and walked for miles, through the drifts to get to work, so that our Next Steppers and their parents and carers would not be let down. We are very lucky to have such a great staff team who go above and beyond the call of duty in order to continue to provide such a great service.



Philip clearing the snow.

**Well Done and Many Thanks!**

The Next Step Trust  
 Providing New Opportunities  
 for young people



### ***Adapted Bike Fleet Now Has TWO 'Raam Velos'***

Spring Hall recently took delivery on our behalf, of a second Raam Velo adapted bike. This bike is the only type which enables the rider to remain in their own wheelchair whilst being pedalled around the track. As several of our youngsters are essential wheelchair users, we found that we always had a long queue waiting to ride.

It's a very expensive machine but thanks to a sponsored 'exercise bike pedal-athon' by members of Queen's Gym, and a £5,000 award from Grants for Health, we have been able to purchase a second one, which will definitely cut down on the waiting times! **Many thanks to both parties.**



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## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Many of our Next Steppers went to see 'Cinderella' at the Victoria Theatre — "Oh No they didn't!" ("Oh Yes they did!").

The staff at the theatre were once again very helpful and the panto was greatly enjoyed by all. It's nice when our young people are given the chance to go out socially with their friends.

Everyone enjoyed sharing a Christmas lunch out at either the Toby Carvery or the Pizza Hut. For those whose lunch out was disrupted by the snow, there was always Jill's delicious home cooked lunch in the café. Many of our youngsters come to the centre on a part-time basis which meant that some members of staff actually had up to 3 Christmas lunches!

Now that *surely* goes above and beyond the call of duty! Thanks guys!!



Ben, Philip, Lucy and Jane enjoy the carvery.



Robert and Kirsty at the Toby Carvery, Ainley Top.

## New Arrivals!

CONGRATULATIONS to two of our Next Steppers Paul and Luke, and also to Barry one of our staff members who have all received new arrivals recently. Paul became an uncle to Tristan on 29/12/09. Barry became a dad to Meave on 14/9/09, and Luke has just become an uncle to Lilly Grace on 12/4/10. Mums and babies are all doing well, and we look forward to them popping in to the centre to say hello. Congratulations once again!



Tristan, Meave and Luke with Lilly Grace... Ahhh!

## Natalie's Kind Gift!

On Friday 19th February Natalie had a party to celebrate her 21st birthday. She invited all her friends and the excellent entertainment was provided by the top band 'Undercover.' Instead of receiving presents Natalie asked that her guests give a donation, to be shared between The Next Step Trust and Ravenscliffe High School, one of our longest standing support partners. Over £500 was raised on the night which should rise to over £600 once Gift Aid is claimed.

We would like to thank Natalie for being so kind and thinking of others on her special day!

HAPPY BELATED 21st BIRTHDAY NATALIE!

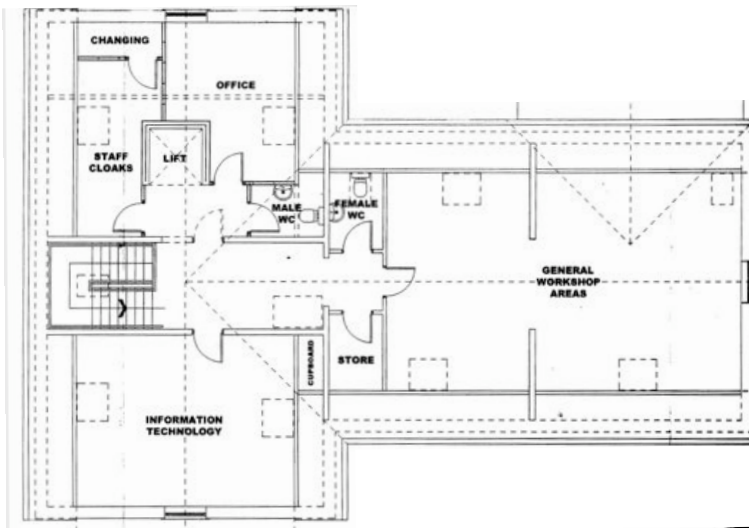


## AMY IS BACK UP ON HER FEET AT LAST!

Thanks to all the efforts of many people, who have given donations, climbed mountains, lost stones in weight and ... the new Supine Stander has now been purchased and is in full use. This useful piece of equipment is already making a difference in the lives of our Next Steppers, especially Amy, who can now be upright again after 5 years! And doesn't she love it! Many, Many thanks to all those people who contributed towards this fund.



## The Next Step Trust is Taking Over The Building!!!



In June The Next Step Trust will be expanding! The Community Foundation for Calderdale are moving their offices to new premises so we will be spreading upstairs. In order to make full use of the much needed additional space we will need to install a lift. This will make the whole building fully accessible to all our young people, but will inevitably involve substantial building work. Thanks go to Philip Naylor for drawing up the plans which are pictured here.

Hopefully this work should not be too disruptive to the service and the centre will remain open. We have lots of potential ideas for our new space, including extra staff facilities, moving the IT suite upstairs



to free up space outside the Sensory Room and possibly a new Arts and Crafts Studio. We are very grateful for this extra space but will be very sorry to lose the staff from the Foundation. We have been together since the beginning and have always had a great relationship with Steve and his team.

**MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, STEVE AND TEAM! WE WILL MISS YOU ALL!**

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lives!*

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**STOP PRESS**



Next Steppers did their bit for **Sports Relief** by joining in on Ravenscliffe's efforts to cycle 440 Miles — (the distance from School to the Olympic Stadium in London!). The distance was covered by doing laps of the track at Spring Hall, and far in excess of the target was reached with a staggering 700 miles actually being covered!

Well Done to Robert, Gary, Lubna and Kirsty who took part, to Matthew who did several circuits of the track at Ravenscliffe on the morning of the challenge, and to all at Ravenscliffe for such an outstanding effort!

Watch out Chris Hoy!

**RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW MINI BUS**

**The Mayor's Stall**

On March 27th the staff held a bric-a-brac/cake sale on the Mayor's Stall in front of Northgate House in Halifax.

**£423** was raised to go towards the cost of a new mini bus. The current bus is always in great demand so that Next Steppers can get out and about into the community, and with numbers of young people expected to rise again this summer, we really need additional transport.



**FORTHCOMING EVENTS TOWARDS THE MINIBUS FUND**

**MAY 3RD** — 3 Legged Pub Crawl in fancy dress, organised by Julie Griffin at Next Step. This event will start and finish at The Yew Tree pub in Northowram, taking in at least 6 other pubs en route! There will also be a night-time disco and karaoke at the Yew Tree. Please feel free to support us by joining in or sponsoring the teams.



**Coast to Coast cycle ride.**



Jonathan is training hard for this event which will involve almost 150 miles of hard pedalling! The route starts at Whitehaven on the West coast of Cumbria and finishes at Newcastle on the East coast. Jonathan is being joined by three other friends who will raise funds for Next Step. Please show your

support by sponsoring them.

**GRAND SUMMER DRAW**

We are currently selling raffle tickets for our Grand Summer Draw! The top prize is a family holiday in a French gite, kindly donated by Robin and Jean Jones; a meal for two at The Works; wine, chocolates and lots more! Don't miss out! The tickets are priced £1 each and the draw will take place on Friday 2nd July.



**LOCAL BANDS RAISE MONEY AT (S)PUDSTOCK.**



Jim Farrell organised another successful musical event before Christmas to raise funds for Next Step + Ravenscliffe at the Halifax Irish Centre. Various local bands played, including Both Barrels, Oscar, and Belt of the Celts. The event was a full house sell out and £200 was raised.



**A BIGGER EVENT WILL FOLLOW THIS SUMMER, WITH MORE LIVE BANDS HELPING TO SUPPORT NEXT STEP:-**

**“LIVE ‘EATH” ON JULY 11TH 2010. Keep an eye out for more details and tickets to this fantastic day out.**

