

## EDITORIAL



The Anne Frank Education Trust was launched here in the UK in 1991 as a sister organisation of the Anne Frank House Amsterdam. This multi-faith educational charity continues to carry out the wishes of Otto Frank, that his daughter's diary be used as a tool for educating people against racism and prejudice. The diary speaks of the psychological effects of living in hiding. Two weeks before the occupants of the hiding place were arrested and deported to

Auschwitz, Anne wrote that she had not lost all her ideals while living through her captivity. In spite of everything she believed people are really good at heart.

In this edition of Edges we see how people can deviate from the good and impose injustice on the weak and vulnerable. Whether it is racism, verbal or sexual abuse. The reality is that it devastates human life. We can disguise with a smile our deep-rooted prejudices and manipulatively inflict our own destructive attitudes with the aim of fragmenting the human family with our own depravity and amoral energy. Yet in the spirit of Anne Frank, let's keep hope alive.

From those formative years our ears can be exposed to fierce, brutal and violent human voices. When we feel no one is listening we smash windows and write graffiti on walls. We work with young people who carry a damaged history which stifles their present moment. There is a secular language which says to such people you have made your bed and now lie in it. In other words there is no hope for you. I can never accept this view. To err is to be human. So many young people with the confusions of life dig holes for themselves which come back to haunt them as they try to build their lives in their early adulthood.

Working with a people who were once known as junkies, thieves and basically juvenile criminals, constantly reminds me of the difficulties they face as they try to correct their mistakes. In the chaos of their lives they have inflicted pain on themselves and others. Society can find it hard to forgive.

I have seen with my own eyes those who confront their mistakes and are determined to change and alter their ways of behaviour. This resolute and positive attitude is not created over night. It is constructed over a period of time.

Our organisation continues to stand with those who suffer the pain of exclusion. **We speak the language of optimism**

## New Project is Launched

Our organisation has recently opened a new project that will provide dispersed support for people in the community. Our new team is raring to go.



## THOMAS Offers Hope

Garry is in our drug rehabilitation programme; he says: "I first heard about THOMAS through my mate Alex. He came into this project a year ago with a drug problem. After leaving THOMAS he went on to college. He is now preparing for university. I want to better my life that's why I have come here for help."



## Our Trip To Oxford

Engaged to make a difference is a new project set up by THOMAS. Its aim is to give a voice to young people, especially those from the ethnic communities. Our group recently took part on a human development course at Plater College Oxford.

Hanif Ali, our Ethnic Community Link Worker says "The weekend was a great success. I learned a great deal about how young people can become leaders in their own right."

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