



Welcome to the Sahir House Newsletter  
June 2018 edition

## Why not raise money for Sahir House and take part in the Wirral Coastal Walk Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The Wirral Coastal Walk has become a well-known annual event in the Wirral calendar and probably the biggest of its kind in the North West. The event attracts 1000's of people who take part and raise much needed funds for their chosen charities and good causes.



The Walk follows the Wirral coastline from Seacombe Ferry on the River Mersey to Wirral Country Park Visitor Centre at Thurston, a distance of 15 miles, interim completion points at 4 and 10 miles.

It is a fun event for walkers of all ages and abilities. Its main attraction, apart from the exercise and the opportunity to view the beautiful Wirral coastline, is that Walkers can raise money through sponsorship for Sahir House. If you would like to support Sahir House and take part in this event please contact Serena Cavanagh for more information.



So dust off those walking shoes and invite, enrol, persuade, cajole, threaten or blackmail family and friends into joining you for a great day out whilst raising money for Sahir House.

# General Data Protection Regulation

On May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, new laws regarding data processing and electronic marketing came into effect across Europe.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is designed to give individuals more rights and control over the information organisations hold on them and how organisations communicate with them through marketing campaigns.

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May Sahir House sent an email asking you to complete a short survey to update your marketing preferences with us. If you have not updated your preferences confirming you want to receive information about services you will be removed from marketing lists until we are sure you want to be on them.

If you missed the survey deadline, don't worry. You can contact us at any time to opt-in (or opt-out if you change your mind), by emailing [info@sahir.uk.com](mailto:info@sahir.uk.com) or asking a member of staff to do so on your behalf.

If you choose not to receive marketing information from us, that's ok! It doesn't affect your right to access Sahir House services; we just want to make sure you are aware of all the support we can provide you.

If you have any questions please email [info@sahir.uk.com](mailto:info@sahir.uk.com) or speak to a member of staff.

Victoria Hughes

Sahir House Monitoring Worker



# Join us in welcoming our new Chief Executive Officer, Tessa Willow!

Hello everyone

I now have a whole two weeks' experience behind me in my role as Chief Executive at Sahir House! I have spent most of these two weeks holding informal "getting to know you" sessions with the staff, listening (a lot) to what happens in the organisation and starting to familiarise myself with the funding agreements, systems and processes.

I am no stranger to Sahir House, having provided advice and support to the organisation over many years and I am delighted to have joined everyone here. I am following in some very impressive footsteps and look forward to working collaboratively with the staff, trustees, volunteers and service users of Sahir House, as well as funders, partners and stakeholders.

I have worked in the voluntary sector for over 25 years, in a variety of paid, volunteer and trustee roles in local and national charities and community organisations, including 15 years as CEO of Volunteer Centre Liverpool (many of them a floor or two above Sahir House in 151 Dale Street!).

I have worked in service user engagement and inclusion in health and social care; service development in mental health charities and have many years' experience of volunteering and campaigning with women's organisations and LGBT+ groups. I hope that this variety of experience will enable me to offer some new perspectives and explore some potential new areas of work to take Sahir House into its next stage of development, building on the award winning work and huge impact made by its dedicated team of staff, volunteers and trustees.

I look forward to meeting as many of the organisation's supporters, service users and friends as possible over the coming years.



## UK AIDS Memorial Quilt

The UK AIDS Memorial Quilt is an irreplaceable piece of social history. It tells the stories of many of those lost in the early days of the HIV AIDS epidemic in the 80's and 90's. The quilt has been in storage for many years.

Recently a number of UK charities came together to create the AIDS Memorial Quilt Conservation Partnership, to raise awareness of the quilt, its importance in our history and to restore and conserve the quilt for generations to come.

In total there are 48 twelve foot by twelve foot panels. Each panel is approximately 4m sq. Each individual panel commemorates someone who died of AIDS and has been lovingly made by their friends, lovers or family. Lives remembered include those of the writer, Bruce Chatwin; the artist/film maker Derek Jarman; the actors, Ian Charleson and Denham Elliot; gay rights activist, Mark Ashton and the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

In addition, emotive testimonials, photos, and personal documents that tell the story behind the panel accompany many of the quilt panels.

The quilts represent approximately 384 people from all around the UK. Each of the panels tells a story.

Sahir House plan to bring a selection of the Quilt panels to Merseyside for this year's World AIDS Day.

**Were you involved in making a quilt for a loved one living or coming from the Northwest? If you were involved or know of a panel remembering someone from this area we'd love to hear from you, please get in touch with Serena either by calling 0151 237 3989 or [info@sahir.uk.com](mailto:info@sahir.uk.com)  
<http://www.aidsquiltuk.org/>**







Liverpool Pride are looking for volunteers to help with this year's festival!

They are especially looking for young people aged 18 to 25, but older groups are more than welcome to volunteer! You don't have to be LGBT to volunteer, we are also looking for allies or people who want to gain experience! There will be lots of different roles to get involved with and a range of experience to gain! Apply here: <https://liverpoolpride.co.uk/volunteer>



## Would you like to join the march at Liverpool Pride?

Last year a record 8000 people joined the march and over 50,000 enjoyed two days of entertainment to celebrate **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities**. **The Liverpool Pride Festival 2018** will also mark **10 years since the death of murdered gay teenager Michael Causer**, who tragically lost his life on 2 August 2008.

As always, the Liverpool Pride March will play a major role in the weekend's programme, bringing the city to a halt in a poignant and joyous chance for everyone to get involved. Full details will also be announced in the coming months about the community engagement events and specific programming and projects which are planned round the festival dates.

If you would like to march with Sahir House please get in touch with Serena at Sahir House.

## Staff team member of the month, we're chatting to support worker Kellie Welch

### What is my role at Sahir House?

I have two roles within Sahir House. I work 4 days a week as a Specialist Asylum Support Worker and 1 day a week as an Outreach Support Worker.

Many service users who access Sahir House have experienced persecution in their country of origin and as a result have fled to the UK to claim asylum for protection. The asylum process is a very long and difficult process and reliving this trauma can have a detrimental effect on people's physical, emotional and mental health. My role is to offer asylum seekers support to navigate through the asylum system, ensure that their needs are being met, that they get the protection that they need and their Human Rights are not breached.

My other role is to offer support and advocacy to anyone living with or affected by HIV in Merseyside. I work with a person centred approach so every service users individual needs are met. This includes benefit claims, housing, self esteem and confidence building, reduce isolation and challenging discrimination, stigma and empowering people to live independently.

### What Sahir House achievement do I value?

In 2016 Sahir House offered me the opportunity to gain **Office of the Immigration Services Commission Level 1** qualification. This qualification

enables Sahir House to provide immigration advice to people living with and affected by HIV.

This has allowed me to make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people within society.

### What prior relevant experience do I have to working at Sahir House that helps me in this role?

I have worked in many different areas of social care over the years. My first job was offering care and support to the elderly. I then went on to work with both vulnerable adults and children in many settings e.g. homeless hostels, mother and baby units, ex-offender hostels and people who experienced domestic violence to mention a few.

In 2003 I began working for Barnardos as a Family Support Worker working with vulnerable children and their families to keep the family together and ensure that every child mattered, had a voice and was protected from harm.

I was a student at Liverpool John Moores University in 2010 and was lucky enough to get a placement with Sahir House and never left as I loved working here so much. I am inspired everyday at the work that everyone at Sahir House does and how passionate and committed they are!!

If anyone would like to chat more about my role at Sahir House please do come and say hello.



# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK Art Course LCVS Building 10.30 – 12.30pm	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK Arrowe Park Drop In 10 -2.30pm Sahir House Information Session 10 -11am Coaching 5.30 – 7.30pm	<b>5</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK St Helens Drop In St Helens Hospital 9 – 11.30am HIV Nurses Drop In 1 – 3pm Coaching Sessions 1 – 2.30pm Yoga Group Session 3 – 4pm	<b>6</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK W-Spot Clinic, Devonshire House Resource Cen- tre,Birkenhead 5 – 7.30pm	<b>7</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK Functional Skills 10 – 1pm Digital Health & Wellbeing Event The Black E 11- 4pm	<b>8</b> VOLUNTEERS WEEK Art Course LCVS Building 10.30 – 12.30pm	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Arrowe Park Drop In 10 -2.30pm Coaching 5.30 – 7.30pm SAHIR HOUSE CLOSED PROTECTED ADMIN DAY	<b>12</b> St Helens Drop In St Helens Hospital 9 – 11.30am HIV Nurses Drop In 1 – 3pm Coaching Sessions 1 – 2.30pm Yoga Group Session 3 – 4pm THM Meeting 5.30 – 7.30pm	<b>13</b> W-Spot Clinic, Devonshire House Resource Cen- tre,Birkenhead 5 – 7.30pm	<b>14</b> Functional Skills 10 – 1pm	<b>15</b> Art Course LCVS Building 10.30 – 12.30pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Arrowe Park Drop In 10 -2.30pm Coaching 5.30 – 7.30pm	<b>19</b> St Helens Drop In St Helens Hospital 9 – 11.30am HIV Nurses Drop In 1 – 3pm Coaching Sessions 1 – 2.30pm Yoga Group Session 3 – 4pm	<b>20</b> Womens Group 1 – 3pm W-Spot Clinic, Devonshire House Resource Cen- tre,Birkenhead 5 – 7.30pm	<b>21</b> Functional Skills 10 – 1pm	<b>22</b> Art Course LCVS Building 10.30 – 12.30pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> WIRRAL COASTAL WALK	<b>25</b> Arrowe Park Drop In 10 -2.30pm Coaching 5.30 – 7.30pm	<b>26</b> St Helens Drop In St Helens Hospital 9 – 11.30am Southport GUM Drop In 9.30 – 11.30am HIV Nurses Drop In 1 – 3pm Coaching Sessions 1 – 2.30pm Gay Mens Group 1.30 – 3pm Yoga Group Session 3 – 4pm Employment Forum 5 – 7pm	<b>27</b> W-Spot Clinic, Devonshire House Resource Cen- tre,Birkenhead 5 – 7.30pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>