



## News on The Future of Sunrise

At the LIT meeting of Friday April 24th Susanna Yeoman answered a few questions on the future of Sunrise.

The dayservice budget has been cut by £20000 (about 10.3%) but this is less than expected.

Due to delays in the bidding process, MIND's contract has been extended by a further 6 months. Julie Smith of MIND confirmed it will be business as usual at Sunrise until September.

The new Service Specification says there will be a drop-in service but I've been concerned by the fact that it does not specify the number of days drop-in service we will get. Susanna explained that the service providers (MIND, Rethink and any others) will each offer to run the various services for however many days they can and so the number of days will depend on what the service providers can offer.

Here is a statement from Susanna, first printed in issue 14:

'I hope we will be proceeding with the day service tender as soon as possible, and I look forward to more discussions between the provider of the new service and service users, to ensure that we have the best possible range of options. I also sincerely hope that we will have many service users willing to express their views and help evolve more of a 'user led' model.'

From this it seems we will be asked our views on the new service and who should provide it. We should express our views in no uncertain terms and make sure we get the best deal for us. The price of silence is getting the deal they think is best for us. As we know, these two things are not always the same.



We have 6 months of business as usual at Sunrise then if the tender process goes ahead we enter unknown territory, there will be changes and we must try to make the new system as comfortable as possible.

The next stage will be the arrival of the competing bids to run the service but this is some months away. We will then find out who is bidding for the service and what they have to offer. Chances are it will be MIND and Rethink and possibly some others.

At the end of the day, when all is said and done, we will either be happy or unhappy with the new service. If we like it that's all well and good. If we don't then we should have a 'Plan B' just in case.

**Direct payments:**

If a bunch of guys can set up a fishing club on direct payments then maybe

we can set up a sports and social club. Perhaps it's time to find out how to do it.

The good folk of Newbury were unhappy with their dayservice and set up their own drop-in. Perhaps they're an example to us all, it would be interesting to know how they did it.

In a connected story the Slough Town Football Stadium plan will be recommended to Slough Council's cabinet for acceptance. The West Wing will either be kept as is or demolished and rebuilt as part of the stadium. The West Wing was suggested as a possible venue for day services some time ago. Neither ourselves nor the management thought it was ideal and in the absence of a suitable alternative venue the case for keeping us at Sunrise is strengthened.

The petition to keep Sunrise open continues to gather signatures.

# Union of the Star to Hold Elections

The first committee of the Union of the Star has encountered some problems, things have not worked out and it's been decided to hold elections for its 4 committee posts:

These are:

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Anyone wishing to stand for election can contact Kamran or Rosie at Sunrise Club

or

Email [talk2us@unionofthestar.org](mailto:talk2us@unionofthestar.org)

The cause is still just, the job is still to be done, we must now choose some people to do that job.



There has been some debate on the union logo, apparently the original

star with US on it is rather too close to one used by the US army on military vehicles. The ones shown here are some of a number of alternative designs available.



Clearly the US army are not good people to upset as they have lots of big guns and high powered lawyers. Nor is it wise to upset their enemies.

But choosing a new logo is a job for another day, first we must choose a new leadership.

## Why The Star Must Rise Again

Our purpose is to obtain for our members a fair deal - justice. We ask no more than any other group in society, we seek equality. We ask for bread, peace and land - A meal at our centre (which we're prepared to pay for!), the right to relax in peace and safety and not be forced into the community against our will, our own centre - a piece of land to call our home. The old, the homeless, the physically disabled, those with learning difficulties, racial groups, alcoholics, drug addicts, criminals, any minority you can think of have these things - all we ask is equality.

We deserve better and at the very least we must not lose what we've got.

## Fascinating Facts

Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II was named an "Honorary Harlem Globetrotter."!

A foetus develops fingerprints at eighteen weeks!

The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia!

An earthquake on Dec. 16, 1811 caused parts of the Mississippi River to flow backwards!

A person uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day!

## Ward 10 Clothing Appeal

Following the revelation at the March LIT meeting that patients admitted without a change of clothes were being made to wear inappropriate and soiled clothing, John The Forunner organised a collection of clothing for the patients of Ward 10.

We donated various items of clothing to the collection and John is due to meet Trish Fairlie on May 1st to arrange the delivery of clothes to Ward 10.

To all who supported this appeal we salute you. You have shown compassion and generosity to our people on Ward 10.

And there but for the grace of God go we.