



304-308 Prince of Wales Road Sheffield S2 1FF
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“Flaming Hell” – Manor estate centre marks Silver Jubilee

Party to mark 25 years of MaTReC 30th March 2012

It was once dubbed the worst council estate in Britain and ‘Flaming Hell’ by the Sunday Mail, but those who live and work there have always known there is something special about Sheffield’s Manor estate.

Now an adult education centre which has helped local people gain more than 10,000 qualifications is celebrating 25 years of helping to improve the lives of the people that live there.

Launched in 1987, Manor Training and Resource Centre, was originally intended to help those hit by the closure of the steelworks in the Lower Don Valley to get back to work.

Tens of thousands of people lost their jobs, and lives and communities were shattered as the manufacturing industry on which Sheffield was built came to an end.

People living on Sheffield’s Manor estate, which was predominantly home to those working in the nearby steel industry, were particularly hard hit. MaTReC was quickly set up to help them retrain for new jobs and industries.

It was a modest start for the centre, recalls Carol Jenkinson , who was working as a cleaner across the road when MaTReC opened.

“We had one old shed from the Council recreation department with two computers and a crèche in the corner,” said Carol Jenkinson, who has been with MaTReC since it opened.

“We’ve come a long way since then!”

“When I came here in 1987, it was to get some training in computers,” said Gwen Schofield, who was one of the first learners through the door 25 years ago.

Now working at a local primary school, she is following in the tradition of MaTReC that those who go there to learn frequently end up employed there or at one of the other local organisations it has links with.

“MaTReC gave me the confidence to get involved in the local community and then to start applying for employment.”

“Celebrating 25 years of helping people to make the most of their lives through education and training is an amazing part of the MaTReC story,” said Business Manager, Kim Gervis, herself an ex-learner.

“We know that people have gone on to do incredible things as a result of taking that first step through our doors and we want to track them down so we can celebrate their success with them”.

It’s not just individuals who have benefited from MaTReC’s work: the charity has played a key part in the regeneration of the Manor and surrounding areas.

“Organisations such as Manor & Castle Development Trust which runs the phenomenally successful Manor Lodge and the Quadrant; Manor Community Childcare Centre who provides nursery and creche provision; Manor Development Company who offer premises to small businesses, and Enable, a training centre working with adults with physical and learning difficulties, all trace their roots back to MaTReC,” said Kim.

“Anyone who has had a link to MaTReC can be proud of the part they have played in making the Manor the vibrant place it is today.”

“We keep going because we have the trust of the learners and the local community,” said David Caborn, Chair of the Board of Directors.

“We know how frightening it can be to come back into education or training and what barriers people are trying to overcome to improve their lives, whether they are asylum seekers, young parents, ex-service personnel, people with long-term health problems or people in employment wanting to improve their career opportunities with better skills . We know how to help them because we’ve seen it all before and we know it can be done.”

The charity is constantly updating its programme of courses so whether it’s sign language or English language, job seeking or surfing the net, MaTReC will have a course for you, offered at low cost or, in some instances, free of charge and with childcare support.

If you have any memories of MaTReC, either as a learner, staff or member of the community, please get in touch with Kim or Sami on 0114 264 2194.



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