



Hampshire
County
Council

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2011

New Forest Mencap, The Nedderman Centre, Marryat Road, New Milton
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Tel: 01425 621893 email :office@newforestmencap.org

Notes from the Chairman

Looking back at Chairman's Notes from the Autumn Newsletter I can report some positive updated news.

Both New Forest Gateway and the Saturday Club are moving forward successfully under the leadership of Cornel. He has introduced a more relaxed programme for members that is proving very popular. We could still accept a few more members in the Saturday Club so please pass the word. You can contact Cornel on 01425 614110 e-mail justplaincornel@yahoo.com

Following our request for new Trustees, I am pleased to report that Rod Rook and Sarah Whitlock volunteered and have been appointed to the Executive Committee. I am sure they will strengthen the committee further and make a valuable contribution to the Society.

Also, I am pleased to report that the attendance at the AGM was much better than the previous year and I think everybody enjoyed the more intimate atmosphere of the Barbara Pooley Room rather than the large hall.

Mary Bergin has settled in well as our Fundraiser and you will see that she has an impressive programme of events for this summer. However, in order for these to be successful she needs volunteers. So don't be shy; contact Mary on 01425 621893 e-mail mary@newforestmencap.org.

Don't forget to make use of the Textile Recycling Bin that is situated at the Tesco Express Car Park, High Street Brockenhurst. It is bright pink so you cannot miss it!

The Quiz Night held on the 29 January was our most successful to date with over £1700 being raised on the night. Our thanks to everybody who took part and particularly to Tom & Sue Pepper who organised the evening and to the New Milton Rotary Club who set the questions. Please see full report on page three.

Our new website is up and running and has useful information about the society and its clubs with regular updates on the latest club news and fundraising events.

Go to www.newforestmencap.org.uk and follow the links.

Recent events in Christchurch New Zealand (I was there on the day of the Earthquake) and Japan have shown the fragility of Man's place in the world and how quickly order can be changed into chaos. Here in our small corner of the world we must strive to achieve our goals; promote the Society; be the best and fight our corner against faceless bureaucracy.

Be Happy.

With best wishes
Bob Stevenson
Chairman – New Forest Mencap

New Forest mencap Officials

Chairman

Bob Stevenson

Vice Chairman

Tom Pepper

Treasurer

Peter Ronan

Trustees

Valerie Bowyer

Ken Garrod

Michael Haisman

Brian Short

Sue Joiner

Rodney Rook

Sarah Whitlock

Team at New Forest mencap

Office Administrator

Elaine Davis

Fundraiser

Mary Bergin

Book-keeper

Muriel Field

Independent Examiner

Alan Field

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We urgently need volunteers to help in our New Milton shop and also to assist with the running of our Clubs. If you have some spare time on your hands and would like to help, we would be most grateful for your support!

Make a one off donation to New Forest mencap or, for just £12 a year (£1 a month) you can become a Friend of New Forest Mencap.

Please contact Mary Bergin on telephone number 01425 621893 or email her; mary@newforestmencap.org and she will send out forms to complete.

Alternatively, we now have a [JustGiving](http://www.justgiving.com/newforestmencap/donate) page; go to <http://www.justgiving.com/newforestmencap/donate>

FUNDRAISER'S REPORT

We took part in the Christchurch **Rotary Club's Annual Swimafun** on October 9th 2010. Our team of four; 'Forest Otters', swam in relay for one hour and 50% of the money raised will go to New Forest Mencap and 50% to The Salvation Army. The total raised was a fantastic £10,712, from the 24 teams who took part, 50% for their nominated charity and 50% to a choice of Shelter Box, End Polio Now or The Salvation Army. Well done to the New Forest Mencap team which raised £272!

New Clothing/Textile Bin for New Forest Mencap. We now have a clothing/textile bin in place; this is in the car park adjacent to Tesco Express in Brockenhurst. Please help support us with donations of unwanted clothing, belts and shoes but please **NO** bedding, duvets, pillows or curtains.

Plastic Milk Bottle Top Collection. We are now collecting plastic milk bottle tops which we sell to raise funds. Currently involved are: New Milton Infants, New Milton Juniors, Tiptoe Primary, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital, Moorwood Cottage Nursing Home in Chandlers Ford and The Coachhouse Rest Home in Milford-on-Sea. All donations of milk bottle tops, washed and with any foil inserts removed, would be most welcome. **Contact: Trustee; Sarah Whitlock – Tel 01425 612019 at 20, Stopples Lane, Hordle, Lymington, Hants SO41 0GL.** The tops are eventually melted down to make traffic cones, fence posts, flower pots and plastic mesh around new trees. Helping New Forest Mencap in this way also helps the environment as they would otherwise end up in land-fill.

Community Matters Token Scheme In January we were successful in being part of the Lymington Waitrose 'Community Matters Green Token Scheme'. When they pay for their shopping, every customer is given a token and can choose one of three charities each month. At the end of the month the tokens are added up and £1000 divided between the three chosen charities for that month. We received a brilliant total of **£661.00**. Thank you to all those customers who helped support us by putting their green token in our charity pot in January!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FESTABLE Saturday May 7th 11-4pm At Sunnyfields Farm Totton, SO40 9FX. This event is organized by The Stable Family Home Trust, 'Celebrating the lives of people with a learning disability in the New Forest'. Lots of fun, food and stalls, along with other local services supporting people with learning disabilities locally. Volunteers needed to help on our fundraising stall, and with baking. Please see attached flyer. If you are interested please contact Mary Bergin **not** the contact on the flyer.

NEW FOREST ROTARY CLUB SPONSORED CYCLE AND HORSE RIDE Saturday May 7th 2011 Burley Park, Burley. It is organised by New Forest Rotary Club to either cycle a 5 mile course, which is family friendly and off road with fun games along the way for children, or a longer cycle course of 14 miles. If you are a horse rider you can take part in a 7 mile course which includes a section to gallop in. New Forest Mencap will receive 75% of any money raised from your sponsors! All you need is a bike or a horse to take part! £5.00 entry fee per person. If you are interested please contact Mary Bergin for information and sponsor forms.

CARER'S DROP IN SESSION Organised by Hampshire County Council May 11th 2011, Masonic Hall at Brockenhurst 7-8.30pm. Local groups and Charities will be present with information including New Forest Mencap, Hampshire Carers Together.

MOORE AND BLATCH SOLICITORS FUNDRAISING STALL Saturday May 21st 2011 Lymington (market day) Volunteers needed for help and baking please.

LYMINGTON ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL CHARITY MARKET Spring Bank Holiday Monday 30th May at Lymington Community Centre 7am – 1pm. Volunteers needed to help with our fundraising stall, selling cakes, bric-a-brac and plants.

NEW FOREST MENCAP SPONSORED WALK + PICNIC Tuesday June 14th 2011 7pm, Blackwater Arboretum, Rhinefield Road. Bring your own picnic and enjoy a walk along the tree trail approximately 1.5 miles. With a talk from Ranger Claire Sherwood who will bring a 'Woodland Chest' filled with forest artefacts. New Forest Gateway Club, Saturday Club and Brockenhurst Gateway Club are all involved in this great opportunity to meet up and raise money. Toilets available in Blackwater Car Park, one disabled toilet. Contact Mary Bergin for Sponsor Forms and information.

ROYAL MENCAP LEARNING DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK June 20-26th 2011. **Street Collection** - Friday June 24th Lymington, Saturday June 25th Brockenhurst Village and New Milton High Street. Volunteers needed for two hour slots on the two dates. Contact Mary Bergin for more information.

MUDEFORD QUAY FUNDRAISING STALL July 9th 2011 Volunteers needed for help and baking please. Selling cakes, plants and bric-a-brac

NEW FOREST SHOW Tuesday -Thursday 26th-28th July 2011. Volunteers needed for this fantastic opportunity to help raise funds and awareness of the Charity.

TESCO NEW MILTON – STREET COLLECTION Dates to be confirmed. September 3rd, 10th or 17th. Volunteers needed to help collect in two hour slots.

CHRISTCHURCH ROTARY SWIMAFUN Saturday September 17th 2011. Two Rivers Meet Sports Centre. Teams of 6, swim in relay for 1 hour, 50% funds raised to New Forest Mencap, 50% to Rotary Charities. Great fun event! Contact Mary Bergin for more information and sponsor forms.

TESCO NEW MILTON BAG PACKING AND COLLECTION Thursday December 8th 2011 2-5pm. Volunteers needed to help pack customers shopping and collect money for New Forest Mencap. If you can help for an hour or more please contact Mary Bergin

Mary Bergin
Fundraiser
New Forest Mencap
Tel: 01425 621893
Email: mary@newforestmencap.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Can you spare an hour or two to help out with our Fundraising Events such as Charity stalls, sponsored activities and street collections? A pool of volunteers is needed on an ad hoc basis.

**If you can help us, please contact Mary Bergin, Fundraiser, New Forest Mencap Office
01425 621893 or email: mary@newforestmencap.org
www.newforestmencap.org.uk**

NEWS AND UPDATES

New Forest Mencap and New Milton Rotary Club Quiz Night

Once again the highly successful annual Quiz Night organised between New Forest Mencap and New Milton Rotary has proved an outstanding success, with record numbers attending and a record sum of £1720 raised.

Held at the end of January in Bashley Village Hall, the quiz had sixteen tables of entrants, who competed fiercely for the coveted shield. The end result was very close with Jim Knight's team narrowly sealing a victory, for the third year running.

During the evening a raffle was held and a ploughman's supper was provided for the 160 participants. The Quiz was compared by John Wilson, who with his wife Margaret, compiled the questions.

We are extremely grateful to John and Margaret and New Milton Rotary for their continued support, and also to all those who helped us to make this event possible. Also to all who have loyally supported us, not only for this year, but over the many previous years.

Tom and Sue Pepper

Government Cuts

To address the problem of the National Deficit, the Government has announced a range of financial cutbacks which affect our Members. These are either directly through changes in benefits or indirectly through reductions in Council budgets and their subsequent decisions to reduce services.

The benefits changes involve a general tightening of the criteria for receiving disability benefits, reassessment of people's entitlement to benefits that they are currently receiving, and a decision to stop paying the mobility element of DLA to those in residential care.

New Forest mencap has been involved in Royal Mencap regional meetings to assess and resist these cutbacks and has written to local Members of Parliament asking for their support in resisting these cutbacks including the consolidation by Hampshire County Council of respite and day care centres and the resulting threat to the Fernmount Day Centre. Their replies, whilst offering general support, do not promise any specific actions other than the Government's further review of the decision to stop paying the mobility element of DLA to those people in residential care.

Anyone being notified of a reduction in the support or services being provided for them can ask for a reassessment of their needs. Appeal both by "letter before action" and formally against any reductions. The Learning Disability Helpline is 0808 808 111.

Peter Ronan, Trustee

BROCKENHURST GATEWAY CLUB

The Wizard of Oz-ish!!

Brockenhurst Gateway Club's musical 'The Wizard of Oz-ish!!' delighted an audience of over one hundred people at St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst, on Thursday 24th March. More than thirty-five club members had taken part in singing and drama workshops led by Cynthia Wilson and Alexa Phillips, where they practiced and selected songs, worked out a storyline and choreographed the action for a show that cleverly wove together a host of favourite songs.

Seventeen club members performed on the evening of the 24th, including Gerda Jackson, as one of the 'Dorothys' and narrator, Tim Bryant, as chief 'Munchkin', narrator and lead solo for the song 'We're off to see the Wizard', and Jonathon Lenaerts, the 'Scarecrow', who sang his character's solo song with moving pathos. Jessica Snell also took a starring part, playing a piano interlude as well as acting as a 'Tin Man'. Other cast members were Ryan Bath, Molly Evershed and Dan West as 'Lions', Emma Gulley as a 'Tin Man', Chris Brown and Stephen Mitchell as the 'Wizards of Oz', Annette Peters as a 'Good Witch', Matthew Cole as a 'Bad Witch', Kieren Carr as a 'Munchkin' and Nicola Bevan, Amy Galpin, Carys Garrod and Susan Isles, all as rival 'Dorothys'.

Funding for the project was raised through an application by Mary Bergin, New Forest Mencap's Fundraiser, to Council Chief Ken Thornber, who awarded a grant from the Councillor Devolved Budget Scheme. It has been a wonderful opportunity for club members to enjoy singing together and then to share their talents and hard work through a performance for friends, family and the many people who support the club throughout the year.

Jenny Knowles, Club Leader



The cast of 'The Wizard of Oz-ish!'



The five Dorothies

Brockenhurst Gateway Club Chair

The Brockenhurst Gateway Club Management Committee will be looking for a new Chairperson later this year.

Mike Clarke, the current Chairman, will be stepping down in the summer in order to have time for other commitments including his planned John O Groats to Lands End cycle ride.

A note for your diary!

Looking ahead, the [Inter-Gateway Sports Tournament](#) will take place on Saturday October 8th, 2011.

Please keep this day free so that you can come along and enjoy this exciting event with us!

NEW FOREST GATEWAY CLUB

Club Leader's Report

The New Forest Gateway Club enjoyed some great club nights over the Festive period. Particularly memorable were the Christmas party and also the Christmas play in which the club members performed in front of parents and friends.

After the winter break, the new term began in early January with a warm welcome to new Assistant Leader, Pauline French. Plans for the whole year were put in place with all members contributing by each requesting 5 of the activities that they liked best. It has been amazing to see how many of the members' favourite activities can be fitted into a year!

As requested by our members, we have increased the number of cooking activities and we are very fortunate to have kitchen facilities at the Nedderman Centre. Mark French who joined us this year as a volunteer is kindly organizing all our cooking sessions.

Amongst recent events was a First Aid Awareness course for our members, provided by St Johns Ambulance. Everybody enjoyed the evening very much! Also in March was a Bingo and pizza night with a chance to win prizes and have a great time.

The club has already had its first major sports competition of the year. The Snooker Competition has been running for a number of years and this year it has been more competitive than ever before, partly due to the fact that the club has two new members who have both turned out to be great snooker players!

For the future we are looking forward to the good weather and longer days so that we can take part in all the outings we have planned. Amongst these is the sponsored walk in June which will be a great opportunity for our members to have some fun, as well as raising money and awareness about our club.

Cornel Gheorghe, Club Leader



Club Activities: games and puzzles



First Aid Awareness

Saturday Club

Club members continue to enjoy their Saturday afternoons under the leadership of Cornel Gheorghe. Though numbers have remained steady, we are now looking to increase membership. Cookery has recently been added to the many and varied existing activities such as board games, painting, puzzles, bouncy ball and snooker.

