



Hampshire
County
Council

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011

**New Forest Mencap,
The Nedderman Centre, Marryat Road, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 5NY
Tel: 01425 621893 email :office@newforestmencap.org**

Notes from the Chairman

Tempus fugit!

It seems only yesterday that Elaine was pressing me for my 'Notes' for the Spring Newsletter and already she is pressing me to contribute to the Autumn Newsletter!

Since my last notes we have had a busy summer. Mary will report more fully on Page 2 but I would like to highlight several events that that stood out for me.

The first was the Sponsored Walk and Picnic held on 14 June at the Blackwater Arboretum. Seventy came along and £673 was raised for the respective clubs. A tremendous achievement by both participants and organisers.

The second was our stand at the New Forest Show held at the end of July. This was very successful and we received a lot of enquiries and made a modest profit - a good learning curve, which we will put into practice next year. You can see what an important showpiece this is for the Society as over 100,000 people visited the Show this year.

Thirdly, we returned to Paultons Park on 22 May for another fun day. This was again very popular with members and helpers having a great day out.

I am sorry to report that Tom Pepper will be resigning at the AGM. Tom and his wife Sue have been stalwarts of the Society for the past 25 years serving between them as Chairman and Vice Chairman; organising events and generally being at the heart of anything the Society has undertaken. We are seeking a new Vice Chairman so if you would like to volunteer or know of anyone please let Elaine know.

Brian Short, another long serving trustee is also resigning at the AGM. Brian has been extremely helpful acting as our handyman and his help will be greatly missed.

Brockenhurst Gateway Club has a new Chairman - Mike Snell. Mike was the Principal of Brockenhurst College and his experience and knowledge will prove very useful when liaising with the College. Our thanks to the outgoing Chairman Mike Clarke who made a valuable contribution to the Club during his three year tenure. He is intending to cycle from John o' Groats to Lands End - Good Luck Mike.

Jenny Knowles is standing down as Club Leader of Brockenhurst Gateway in December. Whenever I have had dealings with Jenny I have always found her articulate, well organised, full of ideas and with the well-being of the Club always at the centre of her thinking. Her replacement as Club Leader was advertised and Pauline French, who is currently Assistant Leader at New Forest Gateway, has been appointed and will commence shadowing Jenny mid-November, ready to take over after the Christmas holiday. Jo McKinnon has also been appointed as Assistant Leader. We wish both well. This of course means that we are now in the process of finding an Assistant Leader for the New Forest Gateway Club.

Our Charity Shop in New Milton has had an internal face-lift and is now bright and white. Thanks to Brian Short, Peter Ronan and Valerie Bowyer who volunteered to carry out the redecorating. We have also installed a new, brighter shop sign.

So, lots of things happening and you can obtain regular updates by logging into www.newforestmencap.org.uk and follow the links.

Don't worry - Be Happy!

Bob Stevenson

Chairman

New Forest Mencap

New Forest mencap

Officials

Chairman

Bob Stevenson

Vice Chairman

Tom Pepper

Treasurer

Peter Ronan

Trustees

Valerie Bowyer

Michael Haisman

Ken Garrod

Brian Short

Sue Joiner

Rodney Rook

Sarah Whitlock

Daphne Gold

Team at New Forest mencap

Office Administrator

Elaine Davis

Fundraiser

Mary Bergin

Book-keeper

Muriel Field

Independent Examiner

Alan Field

NEW FOREST MENCAP AGM

New Forest Mencap AGM will take place at the Nedderman Centre on Monday 21 November at 7.30pm. The Trustees invite all members, staff, volunteers and 'Friends of New Forest Mencap' to this event. The two winners of the Stephen Rhodes awards will receive their prizes.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle; buy a £1 ticket for a chance to win a superb hamper!

FUNDRAISER'S REPORT

We have had an exciting and busy few months at New Forest Mencap with our fundraising initiatives. In May we took part in the New Forest Rotary - Sponsored Horse and Cycle Ride event. We have also run fundraising stalls at Lymington Market, the Lymington Rotary Club's Spring Fayre, Mudeford Quay and at the New Forest Show. As usual, we have been busy with Street Collections in Lymington, Brockenhurst and New Milton, for the National Learning Disability Awareness Week, raising over £500. A Sponsored Walk and Picnic was held in June, starting at Blackwater Arboretum with a talk from a Forest Ranger from the National Park Authority. Seventy members, volunteers and carers attended and raised over £600 for the Gateway and Saturday Clubs.



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, on the left beside the cycle racks and disabled bays. Donations of clothing, belts, shoes, bags, sheets and duvet covers **but please NO**, duvets, pillows, curtains or glass. Please help support us with your unwanted clothing.

Plastic Milk Bottle Top Collection

We are now collecting plastic milk bottle tops for New Forest Mencap. 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.

If you drink milk and would like to help support us – please start collecting your plastic milk bottle tops. NO other tops please. Ensure they are washed and any foil inserts removed.

Contact: Trustee Sarah Whitlock – Tel 01425 612019 at 20, Stopples Lane, Hordle, Lymington, Hants SO41 OGL.

The recycling company will collect from Sarah's house and at the recycle plant the bottle tops are melted down and made into traffic cones, fence posts, flower pots and plastic mesh around new trees.

Help support us with our recycling ventures. Plastic milk bottle tops cannot be recycled by NFDC; if they are put into the clear recycling bags they will be buried in landfill.

New Recycling Venture! Ink Cartridges and Old Mobile Phones

We are now recycling old mobile phones and ink cartridges through a company called Reclaim-it. Please use the recycling envelopes inside your newsletter and money raised from each cartridge or phone come back to New Forest Mencap. Or alternatively go to the New Forest Mencap Shop in New Milton where there will be a collection point. Contact Mary Bergin for more details.

Community Matters Token Scheme

We were successful in being part of the Lymington Waitrose Community Matters Green token scheme in January. Every customer is given a token when they pay for their shopping, and they 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 2011 + 2012

THE BIG SWIM – LIONS CLUB OF NEW MILTON SPONSORED SWIM

November 12 2011 4-7pm at New Milton Recreation Centre. If you would like to take part in our swim team or sponsor us to help raise money for New Forest Mencap, please let Mary Bergin know.

TESCO NEW MILTON BAG PACKING AND COLLECTION

Thursday December 8th 2011 2-5pm. Volunteers needed to help pack customers' shopping and collect cash for New Forest Mencap. If you can help for an hour or more please contact Mary Bergin.

NEW FOREST ROTARY CLUB HORSE AND CYCLE RIDE

May 12th 2012 - Sponsored horse or cycle ride around the forest starting in Burley. Come and take part in this fun event and help raise lots of money and awareness for New Forest Mencap. Contact Mary Bergin for more details. Tel 01425 621893 or Email: mary@newforestmencap.org

MOORE AND BLATCH SOLICITORS LYMINGTON CHARITY FUNDRAISING STALL

Saturday 19th May 2012 - Market Day - Volunteers needed to help on the stall, baking or donating any plants or good quality bric-a-brac to sell.

JUNE 18-24 2012 ROYAL MENCAP LEARNING DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

Street Collections in Lymington, New Milton and Brockenhurst. Please contact Mary Bergin for more details or to volunteer for an hour or two.

For more details about events and help with fundraising or volunteering at our Shop or Gateway Clubs – please contact:

Mary Bergin

Fundraiser

New Forest Mencap

Tel: 01425 621893

Email: mary@newforestmencap.org

BROCKENHURST GATEWAY CLUB

A summer of Change and Fun!

Brockenhurst Gateway Club has seen some changes since the last newsletter. In July we said a big 'Thank You' to Mike Clarke for all his work as Chairman of the Club Management Committee over the last three years.

When Club started again in September we had Mike Snell in place as the new Chairman and we look forward to working with him over the next few years.

In the middle of the summer, the Club moved its main meeting place from E Block to the BEC (Business Excellence Centre) at Brockenhurst College. The BEC provides modern classrooms to work in, with enough space to enjoy a small drama production in the double room.

Another change is that we will now be holding the Club discos in the college's main hall. We are looking forward to New Forest Gateway members joining us for the disco on November 22.

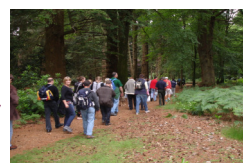
The summer was good to us, with dry weather for outdoor sports and for the June 14 sponsored walk from Blackwater Car Park. New Forest Gateway and Brockenhurst Gateway members got together for the sponsored walk through the woods and enjoyed a picnic under the trees with a fascinating talk by Ranger Claire Sherwood who brought along her box of Forest artefacts.

A highlight of the year was the evening at Keyhaven with the Yacht Club members running boat rides to Hurst Castle, followed by a delicious barbecue as the sun went down.

During the summer break a group of members and helpers got together to enter the Brockenhurst Carnival parade dressed as characters from the comedy series 'Dad's Army'. It was a lot of fun and we won third prize against tough competition.

In addition to enjoying club activities, the club staff, volunteers and members have worked hard to raise funds for the club, providing helpers for the sales and street collections that Mary Bergin has organised, and manning a stall over the three days of the Netley Marsh Steam and Craft Show.

Jenny Knowles
Club Leader



NEW FOREST GATEWAY CLUB

What an amazing summer term we had! There were so many things going on, the weather was great and we all enjoyed our program of activities. As well as our normal indoor sessions we ventured outdoors to enjoy sports, games and barbecues.

In June, for the first time, we joined together with Brockenhurst Gateway Club, taking part in a sponsorship walk from Blackwater car park. As well as raising a considerable amount of money, we had a picnic and also had the opportunity to learn more about nature conservation and some interesting facts about the New Forest. Having much enjoyed the company of Brockenhurst Gateway members, we came up with some ideas for more joint activities and are already planning a joint disco.

Another summer highlight was the evening we went crabbing at Keyhaven; our record for the number of crabs caught in one go was five! We really enjoyed the fun and relaxing atmosphere there.

In addition to all the other activities already highlighted we had a visit Paulton's Park on Sunday 22 May. Needless to say it was good fun and all the members enjoyed it.

We broke up for summer on 26 July with a session of strawberry picking and a barbecue at the Cat and Fiddle field.

For the future we are looking forward to the festive period; and also to our skittles tournament in Walkford.

Cornel Gheorghe
Club Leader



APPEAL FOR NEW TRUSTEES

Sadly, we are losing two of our trustees and are currently seeking replacements.

If you have some time on your hands and would like to support New Forest Mencap in this way please contact us by email :
office@newforestmencap
or telephone 01425 621893



Have you replaced your computer recently and want to dispose of your old one.? Why not donate your old computer to New Forest Mencap. These may be re-built and used by our Club members.

Volunteers wanted!

Can you spare an hour or two to help with fund-raising events such as charity stalls, sponsored activities and street collections?. A pool of volunteers is needed on an ad hoc basis. Also, volunteers are needed for the New Forest Mencap Shop.

Please contact Mary Bergin, Fundraiser
Tel 01425 621893 mary@newforestmencap.org

DONATIONS

To donate to New Forest Mencap please either send payments to Mary Bergin, Fundraiser or make a payment via our website www.newforestmencap.org.uk - go to our PayPal link on the home page.

Recycle your ink cartridges and old mobile phones !

We are now recycling these through Reclaim-it. Please help to raise funds for New Forest Mencap by sending these items to them. You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter or alternatively go to the New Forest Mencap Shop in New Milton where there will be a collection box. If you require further envelopes please contact us.



SATURDAY CLUB

At Saturday Club we had a fabulous summer term and continued with our flexible program. We have had some great weather which prompted the idea of outdoor games and picnics. As a result of the recent advertising campaign we have had new people showing an interest in the club. The number of members attending is constant and satisfactory and enough to create a nice atmosphere.

Cornel Gheorghe
Club Leader

