



# New Forest Mencap Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of our newsletter. This edition includes an update from the Gateway and Saturday Clubs, news of a new collaboration, and some Jubilee fun, but first, an update from our Chair, Mike...



## A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends

My previous letter anticipated the visit of HRH The Princess Royal to both 1 Old Milton Road and the Nedderman Centre in March. As you can see from the photos, we had a great day. HRH first visited and officially opened our new

advice centre in New Milton before arriving at the Nedderman Centre for a light lunch and to meet invited guests. After speaking with the Food Larder team in the car park, HRH then came to the Pooley Room, met and spoke with trustees, staff and our NFM Digital Champions group. She was fully engaged at all times and clearly genuinely interested in our work. On leaving the Centre, she was presented with a posy by Daniella. As the photos demonstrate, it was a day to remember for everyone present.

We are close to the next royal event, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Whilst we aren't expecting a second royal visit, plans are in place for a general celebration. I hope the sun shines and that you all enjoy what will be a unique event for the UK. As you can see, our Gateway Clubs are certainly intending to enjoy themselves. In New Milton we are hoping to mark the Jubilee with an exciting joint project with the New Milton Town Council. Watch this space in our next newsletter.

*Continued on next page*





## A Message from the Chair (continued)

I'm pleased to see the new Stay and Play group up and running on Tuesday mornings at the Nedderman Centre. We are now offering facilities for people with learning disabilities of all ages, including children (more on Stay and Play later in the newsletter).

The New Forest has become a centre for cycling across the country, the relative lack of hills is probably one of the reasons. Why not take the opportunity we are offering of free cycling on Tuesday mornings to the end of June? If Craft is more your thing on a Wednesday evening, do sign up, again it's free including a craft pack to get you started. The details for making a booking are included in this newsletter.

We are entirely dependent on a small team of staff who work incredibly hard for New Forest Mencap. My thanks go to Jackie Lillywhite as our Information Advice and Guidance leader, Jackie also works as our fundraiser and on an ever growing variety of projects. Stacey Kirby is our Office Administrator who keeps the accounts in order and manages incoming mail and messages. Stacey oversees activity in the Nedderman Centre, including oversight of the weekly Food Larder operation and Stay & Play. Then we have our two teams of Gateway staff in Brockenhurst and New Milton, led respectively by Sarah Fallas and Christine Eyles. Whilst run exclusively by volunteers, our Charity Shop in New Milton is managed by Valerie Bowyer, providing us with a regular source of income. My thanks and those of all trustees go to this excellent team. Thank you!

This summer, we hope to appoint a Life Skills practitioner and someone to develop Employment and Volunteering opportunities for our members. These will be important additions to our growing team of staff.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday break. You deserve it!

Mike Snell, Chair New Forest Mencap



**Are you free on a Tuesday morning?**

**Fancy some inclusive cycling for FREE?**

email [development@newforestmencap.org](mailto:development@newforestmencap.org)  
to book a place - available until end of June

## Brockenhurst Gateway Club

We have been able to plan a varied programme of activities for our club users through to July, including Morris dancing with New Forest Meddlars, games in the Forest, a picnic and walk in Mudford and a Summer ball. We are again pleased to be attending a previously pre pandemic annual evening visit to Keyhaven Yacht Club and enjoy a short boat trip.

Before Easter, users were able to design an Easter hat and make Easter rabbits out of socks. The woodwork activity table is popular and our volunteer, Clive, always plans some interesting projects for users to make, such as a bug hotel, a tray to grow herbs and a marble run. (see photos)



Users are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's upcoming Platinum Jubilee and currently making bunting and crowns and taking part in a tea party organised by staff and volunteers. We continue to ensure everyone is kept safe with our own club Covid procedures. Our club has lots for everyone to participate in. The pool table, lego, board games, jigsaws and colouring/painting books are always available and we are investing in new resources.





## New Milton Gateway - Tuesday Social and Saturday chill Out

Did you see us at the New Milton Extravaganza on Easter Saturday? Thanks to the help of friends, members and volunteers we made over £300 on our tombola. Well done everyone!

Now that life is getting back to “normal” whatever that may be, we too are thinking more about being out and about with planned afternoon teas, picnics, skittle evenings, line dancing, crabbing, a beach party disco and sailing with Solent Dolphin. Christine has worked really hard to make these things happen which we hope you will all enjoy.

On the 4th June, we will be in New Milton once again at the Rec with a ticketed “cream tea” event previously planned for the Nedderman Centre. With funding from New Milton Residents Association, we will be serving Cream teas and preparations are well under way, making boxes and decorations to make our area attractive and provide awareness of the Gateway clubs in New Milton.

The 11th of June will find us at Ashley Rugby Club Family fun Event, marshalling traffic and collecting car parking donations. The Saturday programme has yet to be finalised but Jake’s Juke box will continue along with crafts, Wii games and activities using the new interactive board as well as some gentle exercise in the form of chair pilates.

Rachel Sykes will be moving to Ringwood in June and there will be a leaving party on the 28th May, although it is expected that she will be dropping in to see us occasionally. A big “Thank You” to Rachel and her parents for all the support they have given to New Milton Gateway over the years.

## The Start of Something New - Stay and Play

We are delighted to announce our new partnership with *First Opportunities*, to help ensure the continuance of the “Stay & Play” group for children with additional needs, which regrettably closed down at the start of the pandemic in New Milton.



Mike Snell, Chair of New Forest Mencap said “this new collaboration will enable us to expand our services to cater for pre-school children and offer support for them and their parents at a pivotal time in their lives”.

The Stay & Play group sessions will be held on Tuesday mornings (during term time) at the Nedderman Centre and will run from 9.30 to 11.30, offering structured play sessions and a warm welcome to parent(s) or carers and their children from 0 to 4 years. Catherine Bowell, Chair of First Opportunities stated, “we are delighted to be working in partnership to start up this valuable service again to support local families”.

The first session was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April (see photos above) and was a great success. The service is organised by a qualified children’s play leader who, together with her assistant and volunteers, provides music, arts and crafts and general fun in a safe environment. Refreshments are available together with an opportunity for parents and carers to meet and chat together.

More information is available by emailing [office@newforestmencap.org](mailto:office@newforestmencap.org) or calling 01425 621893 .





Why not take a break from all the Jubilee Parties  
and have a go at our puzzles and competition?



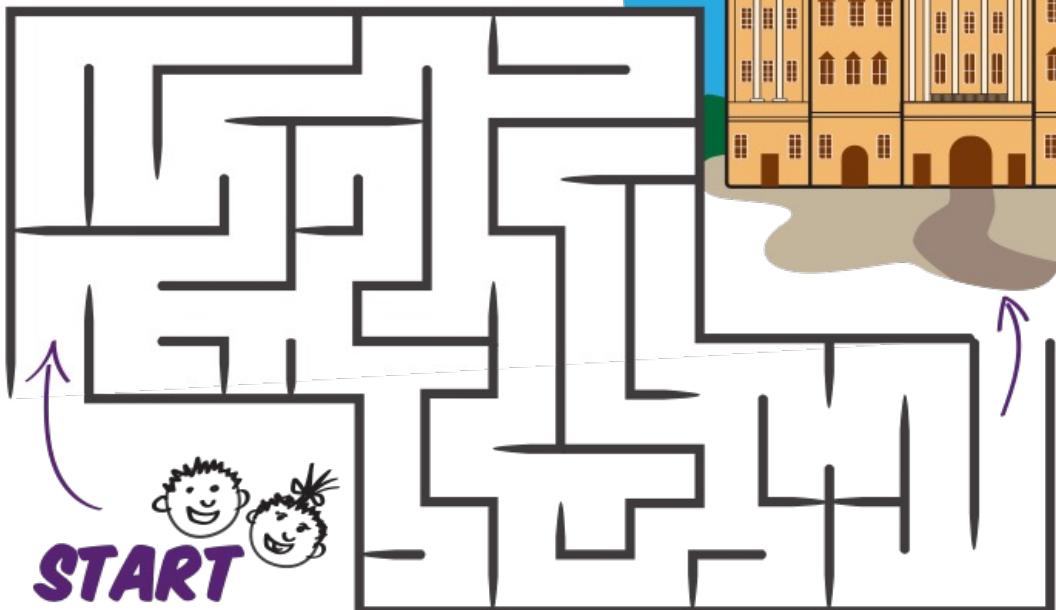
## Platinum Jubilee Corgi



Competition time! A chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher – see what you can do to improve the drawing above (colouring, painting, decoupage, etc) if you'd like to enter send a photo of your completed work to [development@newforestmencap.org](mailto:development@newforestmencap.org) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and a winner will be chosen.

### Platinum Jubilee Maze

Can you find your way to Buckingham Palace through the maze?





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and have a go at our puzzles and competition?



The Big Neighbourhood



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