

## News Release

### **PARITY DAY RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITY**

A local charity's first annual Awareness Day on Tuesday 27 March saw businesses and clubs in the area raising over £750 with a variety of fundraising activities.

Farnborough-based Parity for Disability, which provides services for children and young adults with multiple disabilities in Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire, launched Parity Day to increase awareness of what Parity does and to raise funds that will help maintain its services.

Rushmoor Mayor John Marsh was on hand to help Parity staff start a Money Mile at Princes Mead shopping centre which raised £150.

Cooperative Funeralcare in Aldershot and its sister office in Haslemere held a coffee morning, while Farnborough College of Technology its own penny mile and also donated takings from its pool tables. A group of past Parity shop volunteers called the Camberley Ladies held a coffee morning and luncheon. A number of pubs and small businesses adopted Parity Day Swear Boxes.

Parity Trustee Kelvin Smith, who promoted Parity Day to many local businesses over the past several weeks, said, "What I'm trying to get across is how important the services are at Parity, for people's quality of life. Our goal of providing more services to people with multiple disabilities in the community can only be achieved if we continue raising funds and awareness."

Parity's shop in 53 High Street, Frimley ran a raffle with a grand prize of cut and blow dry, manicure and pedicure at Nicky Clarke Mayfair, worth £180. And at another of the charity's shops at 9 Linkway Parade, Church Crookham, a valuer volunteered to appraise jewellery, silver and clocks for £1 an item. The Parity shop at 69 Camp Road, North Camp has been successfully selling home-made doll's clothes on e-bay in the run-up to the day.

Parity volunteers created a photographic exhibit of Parity's Music Therapy Service at Notcutts Gardening Centre in Bagshot, who have adopted Parity as their charity for the year.

The charity adopted March 27<sup>th</sup> as the date for Parity Day because it is the anniversary of its first meeting in 1953, when a group of parents of disabled children from the local area met to talk about the challenges they faced.

The organisation was one of the first local groups to affiliate to the newly formed national society, the National Spastics Society. It helped other groups set up a service 3 days a week, which is today the White Lodge Centre in Chertsey.

The organisation continued to fundraise for other groups and, as a result of research into local needs, began its own operations in 1989 to provide facilities for young people with complex and multiple disabilities.

They began with a music therapy service and over the next ten years added two day centres in Farnborough and Camberley, and Easter and Summer Teenagers' Activity Schemes.

In 2002 the organisation adopted the name Parity for Disability to reflect that it is financial independent from Scope, that it focuses on a range of disabilities, and to emphasise its goal of 'parity' or equality in the community.

Parity must raise at least £50,000 each year to maintain its services.

ENDS

**About Parity**

Parity for Disability is a local charity providing vital services, information and support to children and young adults with multiple disabilities in Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire, and identifying the individual requirements of clients, their families and carers. The organisation runs two day centres in Farnborough and Camberley, teenage activity schemes, and a music therapy service that operates both on-site and in homes and schools. Parity is registered charity no 1071571. For more information, write to 94 Whetstone Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 9SX; telephone 01252 375581; e-mail [info@parityfordisability.org.uk](mailto:info@parityfordisability.org.uk) or visit [www.parityfordisability.org.uk](http://www.parityfordisability.org.uk).

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