

PARITY NEWS

The newsletter of Parity for Disability, Farnborough, Hants Registered Charity No 1071571 Vol 9 Issue 2 Summer 2011

Qualcomm Scores Again with Parity



More fantastic support has come from Qualcomm in Farnborough. This time the company's volunteers brought out a definite competitive streak in Parity staff and students when they organised a tournament of games.

The main sports hall at Hart Leisure Centre in Fleet saw a morning of dramatic action as six enthusiastic teams, a mixture of Parity students, their keyworkers, and Qualcomm staff, faced off.

The Paralympic sport of boccia set the scene, fuelling the rivalry, and the cheer-

ing must have been heard in the far corners of the leisure centre as each player aimed their ball as close as possible to a target ball. New age kurling maintained the momentum as team members slid discs at the target and knocked others out of the way. The excitement reached its peak in game three with contestants racing round cones, aiming tennis balls into buckets and negotiating hoops in a Qualcomm-designed obstacle course.



No one showed signs of flagging as a 'friendly' game of giant football finished off a sensational morning.

"It was a fantastic day. We felt that Qualcomm really gave the project a lot of thought and provided activities that everyone could get involved in," said Camberley day centre coordinator Helen Morris. "The students all had a really good time and Qualcomm's staff made the event."

Trophies were awarded to the winning team members and gifts of medals and chocolates meant nobody went home empty-handed.

Thanks and congratulations to Qualcomm HR Manager Judith Lamb and all the staff for arranging the event.

"It was fun and different," summarised Parity student Ian Clarke.

In 2010, Qualcomm donated £30,000 to Parity towards the running of the Farnborough and Camberley day centres. We are deeply grateful for all of Qualcomm's involvement.



Guest Editor Sunil Krishnamurthy Shares His Thoughts

We will be asking a Parity student to be a guest editor on each issue, to include their ideas. This edition is brought to you by Sunil Krishnamurthy who uses the Farnborough day centre.

Keeping in Touch

At Parity I have made lots of friendships with staff and other students. When we have student meetings I have the opportunity to ask to go out with friends to places like the cinema, ice skating and for lunch, using my Dynavox. (I'm using it in the picture.)

I like to keep in touch with people that have left Parity. I use e-mail and Facebook to talk to staff that have left. One particular friend that used to be a student at Parity, I catch up with every now and again. I do this by asking my Keyworker to phone my friend's house to arrange to meet up.

I also have a Hotmail account that I use to e-mail my Auntie in India.

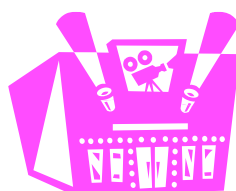
I really enjoy talking to people and don't like to lose contact with them if they leave. I value the time I spend staying in touch and like the fact that I can do this while I'm at the day centre.



Many thanks to those who donated to Parity between February 1 and June 30:

Alison Cooper
Bernadette Bagley
Camberley Ladies
CIO Connect
Dakat/Graham Ellicott
Danny & Carolyn Randall
Hart Male Voice Choir
Heather Garner
Hogg Robinson Group
In Memory of Dora Snelling
In Memory Of Gladys Hardie
Johann & Anne Diaz
Lions Club of Fleet
Mayor of Rushmoor's Fund
Merlin's Magic Wand
Paul Roper
Qualcomm
Rotary Club of Farnborough
Rotary Club of Rushmoor
Rotary Club of Wokingham

Sunil's Recommended Place To Go...



Vue Cinema, Camberley

I like the space they provide for wheelchairs, it's a comfortably-sized area for you and another person, and you aren't sitting too close to the cinema screen.

The Camberley Day Centre staff and students need the following for craft and sensory projects:

Old china (cups and plates)
String
Fabrics—old bedding, tablecloths, t-shirts
Shoebboxes

Please phone 01252 375581 if you can donate any of these items.

Ruth's Henley Swim

Congratulations to Parity Music Therapist Ruth Oreschnick who took part in the Henley Swim in June, raising £400 by finishing the 2.1km boomed course of the Henley Royal Regatta.

Herrington & Carmichael Solicitors

Herrington and Carmichael solicitors have grasped the laws of successful fundraising. Since choosing Parity as their charity, the firm's offices in Camberley and Wokingham have kept up a steady stream of activities... a carload of items went to Parity's three shops, a sold-out curry night at Taste of India in Ash Vale raised £565, and a £500 donation appeared from Wokingham Rotary via Senior Partner James Eatwell. Percentages of sales from an art exhibition held at Bearwood College, and a Wills Week where clients chose to donate a percentage of the cost of their will to charity, have topped up takings and helped towards the costs of the items shown below.

On Thursday 1 September at 7.30pm, mark another event in your diary as Herrington & Carmichael put on a Skittles night and BBQ at the Frog and Wicket in Eversley. Entry is £15. It will be popular—first come first served!



Photo courtesy of Surrey Advertiser

Taste of India owner Luthful Karim presents a cheque with members of Herrington & Carmichael and Parity



Shane with supporters.



Tom and Kali.

Photo courtesy of Tom Dean

Sunil's Pick of the News: The Fleet Half 2011

After months of training, Shane Martin, Kali Turtill and Tom Dean completed the Fleet Half Marathon on Sunday 20 March with impressive times – Kali and Tom finished in 2 hours and 13 minutes while Shane took 1 hour 53 minutes.

"I want to do it again," said Parity Keyworker Shane right after completing the race. "I'm really aching today but it was worth it!" Kali told us the following Monday.

"We were so proud to cheer them all through the finish line," commented Parity Executive Director Alison Cooper. The runners raised over £600, with Shane's portion going towards the cost of a new art storage cabinet for the Farnborough day centre and a tarpaulin shade and umbrellas for the garden.



Victoria stays cool.

Want to run for Parity? Entries are now open for the popular Bath Half which takes place in March 2012..visit www.bathhalf.co.uk. Entries for the next Fleet Half open in September..visit www.fleethalfmarathon.com. To view the many options visit www.runnersworld.co.uk. We'll support you all the way!



The Siemens Team



Parity Students spent time with Siemens staff.

A Ground Force to be Reckoned With

Giving a facelift to the garden at Parity's Farnborough day centre is no simple task - pre-historic weeds and rock-hard soil posing just two of the challenges. Luckily for us, in recent years a crack team has descended. Staff from non-profit organisation Business in the Community and Frimley company Siemens worked miracles in 2009, and did the same again in March this year. They proved themselves capable of repainting, weeding, planting, laying bark, and smartening up - all in a single day. They also persuaded specialists from horticultural firm Flora-tec to generously spare a few hours mechanically clearing the worst of the weeds and laying new paving.

Not everyone who came to Parity that day got their hands dirty. Some of the Siemens volunteers enjoyed communication and art sessions with Parity students, bringing a new dimension to the project. We also appreciate Stacey McEvoy's efforts to continue promoting Parity at Siemens, instigating an 'Amnesty Week' in June that brought a carload of donations to our three shops. Our deepest thanks to everyone at BITC, Flora-Tec and Siemens.



Rushmoor Mayor's Support

Before his mayoral year ended in May, the Mayor of Rushmoor Cllr Brian Parker and his wife Brenda visited Parity and admired the newly made-over garden area. Brian chose Parity as one of his charities for the year, and we were delighted to receive £1,905 towards Parity's running costs.

Farnborough Tech Help

Parity's garden received an extra manicure from Farnborough Tech students in May. How quickly those weeds start to come back!

Thank you to the year one group of Public Service students, and course director Elly Wilson, who did a thorough and enthusiastic job, even washing the minibuses.



Cllr John May and the Lisa May Foundation adopt Parity



Parity is delighted to have been adopted by a wonderful new charity, the Lisa May Foundation. Former Surrey Heath Mayor, Cllr John May (pictured far left visiting Parity) set up the foundation initially for disaster victims after tragically losing his daughter Lisa to Thailand's devastating Boxing Day tsunami in 2004. John then decided to support four local charities under its umbrella.



The Lisa May Foundation has now been chosen as Sainsbury's in Watchmoor Park's charity for the year! Everyone is welcome at the launch event on Saturday 23 July, a day of fun and activities in support of Parity and the other Foundation charities.

The Mayor's Fund has already donated the monies needed to buy a brand new dishwasher for Parity's Camberley day centre. After John visited the centre last year, he learned that this would significantly save staff time in the kitchen, time which can be spent with students. We look forward to working with John and his hardworking assistant Cheryl DCruz in the coming months.



Parity Changes

We said goodbye to Keyworker Michelle Hepburn after seven years with Parity's Farnborough day centre. We will miss you! We are pleased to have Ali Johnstone and Sam Saunders on the team for six months at Camberley through the Future Jobs Fund. Welcome also to David Turnidge who will be Parity's treasurer. David takes over from Jay Atara who, due to work commitments, is stepping back but retaining his role as a trustee. Welcome to new volunteers Norman and Susan Donnelly. Joining us too is volunteer illustrator Charles Bowditch who will be enhancing posters and other materials with his artwork. Welcome also to new volunteers at the Church Crookham shop Joan Smith and Janet Thompson.

A huge thank you to Anthony Wraight for the three years he spent as IT volunteer for Parity. Anthony juggled Parity's many calls for help with a full time job and a family. He always did excellent work and we wish him all the best.

Welcome to our new IT volunteer Ian Brown, a retired IT support manager. Ian has already hit the ground running helping the Farnborough day centre.

Coast to Coast for Parity



Congratulations to Kevin Holmes who cycled the 150 miles from Morecambe Bay to Scarborough, raising £750 for Parity.

Travel2Give

You can now feel extra good about taking that well-deserved break. New partner Travel2give is an award-winning, not for profit company providing holidays and related activities for Parity supporters at great prices. They create donations worth up to 5% of the holiday value! Why not view their holidays at www.travel2give.org.uk or pick up a brochure from one of Parity's shops.

If you're interested in booking, you'll simply need to contact Parity's travel2give agent Olein Webster on the number provided. Olein is a local lady based in Farnborough from where she runs her own company, Diamond Travel. Bon voyage!

Sandra's 15 Years With Parity

Timing really has been everything for Parity Shop Manager Sandra Broadbridge. When she enquired with Parity about an office job back in 1996, she was interested in any charitable work and pictured putting to use her strong administrative background.

There were no office roles going, but Parity had just taken on a shop in Park Street, Camberley and needed a full time manager. Christine Stevens, who oversees all Parity's shops, saw potential in Sandra and persuaded her to give it a try.

"Looks like she was right," says Sandra, "as I'm still here some 15 years later!"

Sandra faced completely refitting the shop, and recruiting and training a team of volunteers. She and the shop proved a big success and a second manager, Maureen Pelling, joined the team. However, after five good years, fortunes changed. Parity and all the retailers on the street faced imminent closure due to redevelopment.

"It is said, when one door closes another one opens -- and that was the start of a new shop in Church Crookham," recalls Sandra.

Sandra was thrilled to helm the new venture in Linkway Parade in 1991. Being away from a town centre, it proved more of a challenge, calling on all of her previous experience. Now the shop is a key contributor to the charity's fundraising income, and celebrated its 10th birthday in March.

Sandra has nothing but respect for all her volunteers, plus Marilyn Benger and Sue Williams who also help manage. "The ladies here, they all keep the shop working so very well. And their husbands help too, taking items we can't sell to the dump or helping to fix things."

Sandra's 15 years of service will be recognised at this year's AGM in October—and she laughs at the idea of starting up another Parity venture. "I wouldn't do it a third time!"

What would Sandra say to anyone interested in charity work?

"It's very rewarding, we all gain from it. The charity gains, and you benefit in so many ways. A big thank you to all the people I have had the pleasure to know and work with so far."



Congratulations to Parity Shop Volunteers Rosemary Price and Debbie Appleton who were honoured at Rushmoor Borough Council's Volunteer Recognition Event in February.

An Eggs-tra Large Delivery From right4staff



Parity staff and students received a delicious surprise delivery in March. A total of 226 chocolate Easter eggs of all shapes and sizes arrived from the team at Farnborough recruitment firm right4staff, who had appealed to its customers to spread some Easter cheer by donating the eggs.

"It was very tempting being surrounded by so much chocolate on the run up to Easter but we all resisted!" said Natalie Brightwell, right4staff's Farnborough Branch Manager. The eggs quickly disappeared, immediately shared amongst all Parity's services, even reaching the Easter Teenagers Activity Scheme just in time on its last day. Thank you to right4staff and all the local businesses who responded so generously.

Left to right: right4staff's Natalie Brightwell, Senior Keyworker Ann Fox and Student Adam Brunton show self-control.



Parity Celebrates Will and Kate's Day

Parity's Frimley shop manager Millie Maling outdid herself with a wedding window to mark the event. Meanwhile both Parity day centres celebrated with food and dressed up for the occasion. Farnborough day centre's art-board also honoured the special day.

Drumming Workshop A Big Hit



Sheena duets with Paul, pictured right.

Paul Midgley from Drumrunners tapped into the students' skills with music and rhythm when he led a drumming workshop at Parity. Drumrunners are a non-profit that organises educational workshops, festivals and other activities. Everyone enjoyed the entertaining and spirited session! Using percussion instruments, the students joined Paul in duets or played as a group. You can catch Drumrunners performing at the Basingstoke Music Festival on July 9 & 10, and we definitely hope to see Paul again at Parity.



Thank you to... The Old Wheatsheaf in Frimley Green for raising £235 with a quiz night. Notcutts Garden Centre in Bagshot for allowing our volunteer Kelvin to collect on the premises, and to the customers for their generosity. Kelvin has raised over £200 so far. Princes Mead Shopping Centre for donating £60.08 from their Noah's Ark collection and for enabling Parity to raise £238 with a Mothers Day Stall. Thanks also to everyone who donated baked goods and items for the stall. The Royal Swan in Blackwater for donating £100 from their quiz night. Longacres Garden Centre in Bagshot and all the customers and volunteers: Parity's collection and tombola raised £470. The contents of a giant collection bear brought in another £104. Toys R Us in Woking for also hosting one of our giant collecting bears, which brought in £89. Sainsburys Badshot Lea and all customers and volunteers: the collection raised £494. The Plough in Farnham for raising £60 at their quiz night. World War Two memorabilia organisation Rabbitsqn who held another popular signing event attended by World War Two Fighter Pilots, raising £131 for Parity from the raffle. Parity day centre staff and Rev Gordon Thomas at St Christopher's Church: £112 was raised at Parity's stall at Cove Village Fayre.



Dates For Your Diary

For more info contact Helene on 01252 375581
or helene@parityfordisability.org.uk

Sat 23 July

Lisa May Foundation Launch Event
Sainsbury's Watchmoor Park, Camberley
Sainsbury's has adopted the Foundation, and the Foundation has adopted Parity. (Story on p.5) Join us for a day of fun family activities. Can you spare one or two hours to collect or bagpack? Please contact Helene to help.

Thurs 1 Sept

Skittles and BBQ Evening for Parity
The Frog and Wicket, Eversley
Herrington & Carmichael solicitors host their next fundraiser. £15 entry, it will fill fast!

Tues 6 to Mon 12 Sept

Fish and Chip Promotion
Mart's Fish and Chips, 61 Cove Road, Farnborough
Eat chips from Mart's and help Parity! A percentage of sales will go to your local charity during this special week.

Sat 17 Sept

Camberley to Coast Sponsored Bike Ride
Ride 125 miles in one day for Parity! Download the pack from our website or contact Helene.

Sun 18 Sept
Parity Skydive

Still time to skydive for Parity—we ask you to raise £500. Download the pack from our website or contact Helene.

Sat 22 Oct

Sponsored Night in a Haunted House
South Hill Park Mansion, Bracknell
Dare to spend midnight to 3am at this spooky old mansion house. Download the pack from our website or contact Helene.

The Autumn Newsletter will be issued at the end of October.
The deadline for submissions is September 15.

This newsletter is published by Parity for Disability, and edited by Helene Abbiss, fundraising & communications manager. If you have contributions for future editions or comments resulting from this newsletter, please contact Helene on 01252 375581 or helene@parityfordisability.org.uk.



Join the Parity Zorbers!

Until September Parity supporters can book their place on our sponsored zorb at Arborfield, near Reading. Congratulations to all those who have already tried the latest extreme challenge! The giant plastic ball that rolls you downhill at high speed has received two thumbs up from all our participants. You are just asked to pay a £10 deposit and raise £50 for Parity. For more details, download the pack from the Parity web site or contact Helene. Many thanks to Tom and Nina for making this fundraiser possible.

Congratulations to those who braved the Haunted House at South Hill Park Mansion in February. You have raised over £1,500 so far! The next Haunted House event takes place on Sat 22 October— join us if you dare! Details are available on the web site or by contacting Helene.



Parity 100 Club Winners
Join the 100 Club and win cash prizes! Details are on the Parity website.

February – G Pelling
April – J Marsh
June – G Pelling

March — S Morris
May – P Roper

www.parityfordisability.org.uk



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