



*Roots in the Community,  
Branching out to all...*

www.parksidealdershot.co.uk

# Parkside Newsletter

Winter 2009

The newsletter from Parkside (Aldershot and District Mencap), Charity Number: 238671



*Dear Members,*

Welcome to the winter 2009 edition of Parkside's newsletter. For those of you who I have not yet met or if you haven't heard, my name is Bonnie and I am the new Fundraising and Development Officer. My aim as the new Fundraiser is to create community events for all to enjoy but of course raising lots of funds in the process!

Since I started in September I have been very busy organising events and I am pleased to announce that in January Parkside will be going live with a new website! With more up to date information and its very own hall of fame!

Please do keep in touch, put the upcoming events in your diary now, and keep checking the website for goings on. If you are passing please pop in and see the centre looking very festive with plenty of decorations and of course the singing Santa's are out! I hope to see you at the AGM in February.

On behalf of Parkside I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy prosperous new year.

**Bonnie Andrews**  
Fundraising and Development Officer



## Parkside Christmas Fayre Raises £900!

On November 29th we hosted a very festive Christmas Fayre! We had the wonderful 'Tails N Scales' petting zoo who were a fantastic attraction with a wide array of animals such as corn snakes, a tarantula, a white hedgehog, a feisty ferret, an owl and even a hawk!

We also had a visit from Santa Claus and he had lots of happy visitors in his magical grotto. There were lots of wonderful stalls on display selling

wonderful gifts from traditional sweets, candles, jewellery, books, chocolate, hats, scarves and of course cakes!

Despite the awful weather we managed to raise £900. So a big thank you to all that showed their support either by making a donation or volunteering on the day. It is truly appreciated and the total raised was fantastic!



**Santa Claus at Parkside!**

# Award Winning Parkside

Parkside achieved success at the Rushmoor In Bloom competition in July, where two awards were won; Highly Commended for best young gardener and Silver Gilt for best display of pots and containers.



Nicky Parker accepts the award on behalf of Parkside

# Publicising Parkside in Local Schools

By Bonnie Andrews

To publicise Parkside and to aid understanding and acceptance I have been presenting during assemblies at local schools. So far I have been to Beaumont School presented to their year five and six classes and I will be visiting Farnborough Grange in the New Year.

The assemblies have been a great opportunity to talk to children about what they think a disability is, the children that I have spoken to have been so positive and the feedback has been fantastic.

By creating awareness and educating I hope to make the community in which we live more inclusive for all, and break down any misconceived barriers. I have also represented Parkside and sold our fabulous new tote bags at the Fleet Festivities in November and the Rotary Christmas Bazaar in Farnborough in December.

## Join the Parkside Executive Committee

As an ever growing charity we are always looking for new people to join the executive committee. If you have a particular skill or have expertise in a particular field and feel as though you may be able to benefit Parkside please do get in touch about becoming a committee member.

This is an exciting opportunity to use your skills to help vulnerable adults and children with learning disabilities. Meetings are held every six weeks, but do not require attendance every time. If you require further information please contact Suzanne on 01252 313103 or email on [parkside57@hotmail.com](mailto:parkside57@hotmail.com)

# Gateway Club Update

Leigh Chinery, Gateway Club Leader

I have tried to make some changes over the last few months by offering lower fat and sugar alternatives in the snack bar. We have had a fruit smoothie making evening and a vegetable soup making evening which went down well.

As well as diet changes, I have booked more acts to get everyone up and moving! These include Elvis every 6 weeks, extra discos, new bands and in the warmer months we hope to plan more outside games.

Coming up in the new year we have several bands, pantomime, hook eagle morris men, beer and skittles evening, karaoke evening and lots more!

## Gateway Games Win



Well Done to Laura-Jane Chambers who achieved second place at the recent Brockenhurst Gateway Club Games. Well done also to all those who took part!

# Santa Fun Run Success!

By Bonnie Andrews

On December 6th we had a team of runners who took part in the Santa Fun Run in Greenwich Park, London. This was a 5km (roughly 3.3miles) run and a very early start as we had to travel up to London!

I was one of the runners and despite the heavy downpour at the beginning it was a good day and a beautiful park. We also got a free Santa suit! Not the best for running in but kept us warm! Between us we raised £620 and I would like to thank the team Bob Andrews, James Allman-Talbot, Aimee Grimes, Kayley Finbow, Lewis Deller-Twinny, Sandie Sladen and Andie Lary.



The Parkside Santas prepare themselves for the big race

## Halloween Horrors!

In October the PIP Music Therapy group also known as "The Freaky Frankenstein's" did a spooktacular performance named "Halloween Horrors" we had a full house and a great time! With lots of dancing and cake at the end! The group managed to raise £51 towards getting new interactive music equipment. Well done to all who performed and thank you to all that attended.



## Do something Challenging for Charity!



Parkside has teamed up with **Do It For Charity**, an organisation that arranges sponsored walks, runs, trekking, cycles, skydiving, or even parachuting.

How about a trek through Peru, walking the Great Wall of China, or climbing a mountain and at the same time raising funds for Parkside? There

is such a selection of activities and places that you can partake in, while raising much needed funds us!

Check out the website for more details or contact us for more information. Do something challenging today for charity. Any one who would like to support us will have our full support and we will also help publicise your sponsorship details.  
website: [www.doitforcharity.com](http://www.doitforcharity.com)

Just a little reminder that if you would like to receive copies of our news-letter and updates on upcoming events via email, please send us your email address with your full name. This will help us save administration costs and the environment too!

email: [parkside57@btconnect.com](mailto:parkside57@btconnect.com)

## Parkside Merchandise

**New!**



Parkside now sell environmentally friendly tote bags! They come in two designs and are at the bargain price of just £2 each. The bags are great for shopping at the supermarket, or a swim/gym kit!

Not only helpful but will help us raise funds for our services. If you would like to buy one or two please contact the office or pop in and see us.

## Thank You's

Parkside would like to thank the following people or organisations for showing your support to us in 2009:

- The Santa Fun Runners
- AON Consulting who hosted and raised funds through a cake sale
- Dianne Wilson (Our music therapist) for all her extra hours that she puts in!
- Pinewood Quilters for their ongoing support
- Carol Johnson for her constant support
- To all the volunteers at the Christmas Fayre
- To all that donated prizes, tickets or food for the Christmas Fayre
- Malcolm Thomas and the Aldershot and Fleet Town Rugby Club for their support and fundraising efforts
- Runways End croppers for hosting a raffle for Parkside and showing their support, in particular Carrie and the Howard family
- Aldershot Town Football Club
- The Wavell School
- Beaumont School
- The Farnborough Not Forgotten Club
- Rushmoor Voluntary Services in particular Marie Jarvis & Sue Hathaway
- Ray Mortimer for redesigning all of our leaflets and newsletter
- Parkside's Executive Committee for their loyal support
- Farnborough Hill Choirs for singing and hosting a collection
- To all volunteers that have given their time and support throughout the year

## Important Dates for your Diary

- AGM – Tuesday 9th February 2010
- Fun Day – Sunday 20th June 2010

It's so important that we receive your feedback and that we all share ideas on improving the services or making changes. So please do come along to the Annual General Meeting and show your support and use your voice. The meeting is the perfect time to renew your membership or even become a member.

The AGM will also feature a Fundraising and Development presentation and a short film created by Parkside's Teenage Youth Club on an award that they have recently received.



*Roots in the Community,  
Branching out to all...*



Late Christmas present! We "unwrap" our brand new website in January! Find it at:  
[www.parksidealdershot.co.uk](http://www.parksidealdershot.co.uk)

**Parkside,**  
Guildford Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU12 4BP  
Tel: 01252 313103 Fax: 01252 321324

Email: [parkside57@btconnect.com](mailto:parkside57@btconnect.com)  
Web: [www.parksidealdershot.co.uk](http://www.parksidealdershot.co.uk)