



PARKSIDE NEWSLETTER

July 2024 — January 2025
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Reflecting on a Successful 2024 at Parkside

I am pleased to be able to report that Parkside has had an excellent 2024, with which I hope readers will agree! The newly refurbished building has created a much better environment to the benefit of our service users and staff. The Life Project and the Tuesday Garden Group are now fully settled in Parkside following their move from Farnborough and Gillian Avenue respectively. This has made the management of staff and volunteers so much easier. For years, we have had problems with the roof which leaks in places. Work is now underway to make the roof watertight which will be completed in the New Year.

Parkside continues to deliver 11 services to approximately 150 service users. I cannot thank our excellent staff team and volunteers enough for their hard work and commitment. Financially, we are coping well, but there is no room for complacency given continuing uncertainty about our income and expenditure; thus, any donations will be gratefully received.

This is my last New Year Message as Chair. Charity Commission rules require Trustees to stand down after 3 terms of 3 years and it's my turn in April. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support I have had during my time as Chair.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful activities and opportunities that Parkside are able to deliver and this year has been quite amazing in that respect. It just remains for me to once again thank our staff and volunteers.

Chris Harris,
Trustee, Chair

Lest we forget

In November the Life Project group visited the Royal Garrison church 'Longest Yarn' exhibition.

The crocheted and knitted figures displayed depict scenes from D-Day-6 June 1944. The knitted scenes are dedicated to the World War 2 Veterans who were part of the momentous day in history when allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy.

The group enjoyed the intricate work and said the crochet poppies were just beautiful.



A Sweet Treat for the Holidays!

This December, we had the pleasure of welcoming four fantastic representatives from Aldershot Sodexo, who, much like Christmas elves, delivered a generous assortment of delicious chocolates to Parkside. Their thoughtful gesture ensured that everyone in our groups enjoyed a special festive treat!



A heartfelt thank you to all the Sodexo staff, with special recognition to Sarah and Kelly for organising and delivering this wonderful donation.

Your kindness truly made our festive season a lot brighter!

Thursday Group Goes for Gold

In September, the Thursday Life Project group attended the Winchester Paralympics Personal Best event, which brought together around 200 adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and autism.

A big congratulations to Mayson for earning a Gold trophy for outstanding performance in rugby.



A Helping Hand!

Our thanks to Scott Lawrence from rmp for volunteering with us.

Over two days, Scott joined two different groups, making a big impact with his time and effort.



Despite the chilly weather, he was a fantastic help with the Garden group. We truly appreciate your support, Scott!

Spreading Holiday Cheer

A big thank you to our amazing team of volunteers who helped collect for Rushmoor Rotary's annual Christmas fundraiser. The traditional collections take place in both Aldershot and Farnborough communities and is a much loved local tradition.

We're also deeply grateful to the generous Aldershot residents, especially those near Parkside, for their kind donations.

Your support really makes a difference!



Inspiring Week of Volunteering at Parkside

We were thrilled to welcome Raeis, a student from Farnborough 6th Form College, who volunteered with us for a week in August.

Aspiring to study medicine, Raeis wanted to better understand our work with service users and found a strong connection with our mission. He shared with us that the experience had enhanced his communication skills and proved to be eye-opening, as he had never done anything like this before.



Raeis fully embraced every task, including washing cars during our Summer of Fun week. We loved having him on board and wish him the best in his future endeavours!

Volunteers are vital to Parkside, and we're fortunate to have incredible individuals supporting a variety of our services.

To learn more about volunteering with us, visit our website and explore our the work we do or email us at:

admin57@parksidealdershot.co.uk

Safety First: PCSOs Visit Parkside

A big thank you to Kath and Elaine, our local PCSOs, for visiting and discussing safety, bullying, and bike safety with our group. They shared valuable tips, from reflective clothing to cyber-bullying awareness, and engaged in a lively discussion. We're grateful for their time and hope to welcome them back soon.



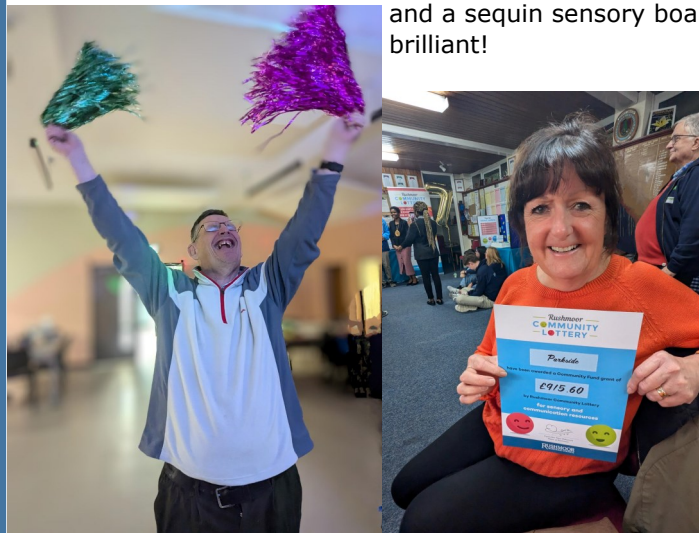
A Favourite Band Returns

Gateway Club welcomed back the **Outlaws** band in November. Everyone had a really good time dancing and singing the night away.....

7 Years of Rushmoor Lottery & Grant Success!

In September, we celebrated 7 years of the Rushmoor Community Lottery and were thrilled to receive a grant we had applied for, making it an extra special evening. A special thank you to all our supporters for your continued weekly contributions.

We were able to purchase musical dance equipment, head phones and a sequin sensory board just brilliant!



A Festive Volunteer Day & Successful Christmas Fair

In late November, we had a fantastic volunteer day with Metro Bank, who helped transform Parkside into a festive wonderland for our Christmas Fair. The team went above and beyond with Santa's Grotto, beautifully decorated Christmas trees, and a perfectly set-up tombola, making this beloved event even more special. Also our thanks to the guys who started the summer house build, much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

The fair raised an impressive £1,760, with the



Chelsea FC signed shirt from the silent auction doing very well. Plus the Garden group produced some amazing items and they also did very well.

The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the support of Parkside friends, local businesses, volunteers, all the craft makers and Santa & his Elf. The raffle surpassed last year's total!

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved!



Thanks to Aspire for the absolute amazing array of Tech raffle gifts!



In this edition, we thank our amazing community, grant givers, and businesses for their incredible support this year.

The response to our Christmas raffle was phenomenal, and your generosity helps us continue delivering exceptional services. A special thanks to our dedicated volunteers, whose contributions play a vital role in our success!

A.Jones & Family
Aldershot & District Allotment ASC
Aldershot Football Club
Alice Holt
Andy & Danny!
Aspire Aldershot
Awards for All National Lottery
Beauty Box Aldershot
Birdworld
Chelsea FC
Co-op Funeral Care Fleet
D.Langdon
David Lloyd Club Farnham
Farnborough Not Forgotten Club
Farnham Hedgehogs
Fired Frog Camberley
Folkes & Sedgemound
Guildford Spectrum
Hart Lottery supporters
Investec
Jim Goodman - Kuriositee
Julia and Kevin Gubbins
Longacres Garden Centre
Lush Hair & Beauty Salon Aldershot
Maria Taylor
Marwell Zoo
C. McKenzie
Metro Bank
Mr and Mrs Mellor
Mr and Mrs Tyas
Painshill Park
Rushmoor Lottery supporters
Rushmoor Rotary
S. Watkins
Sodexo
Squires Garden Centre
T.Hassell
Terry Owens
Tesco Groundworks
Webber

Volunteers Kick Off the New Year with our Summer House Challenge!

In the new year, our wonderful volunteers Andy & Danny braved the harsh weather to finish building the summer house, funded by a Tesco Groundworks grant.

Matt from The Life Project also joined in, bringing his passion for DIY. He very much enjoyed being involved along with Andy's support.

A big thank you to everyone who were part of this volunteering task, your hard work and dedication in getting this big one! completed has been so gratefully received.

The Garden Group will be thrilled with the new space!



Farnborough Lions Strengthen Ties with Parkside

For over 40 years, Farnborough Lions have supported Parkside by catering for the Gateway Club Christmas Party.

This year, the partnership grew even stronger, with members of the newly formed Farnborough & Aldershot Lions Club stepping in to provide refreshments for 63 guests.

We're so grateful for their continued support!



Some more Christmas Magic!





Our Summer **Fun**raising
Fun Week. A chance for
different groups to have lots
of fun and raise money for
their group!





More Parkside Joy!

