

Newsletter
 June 2009

News from Gina.....

In February half term the Tuesday and Wednesday children were invited to Dominoes Pizza to make their own pizzas. Below are photos of our exciting trip:



The Thursday group came along to the bungalow and we watched a film and ate pizza.



All the clubs now have exciting display boards to show their news, ideas and suggestions, display photographs, and where they can be informed about events and activities.

It is with regret that I have to report that the trampoline has been vandalised for the third time, making it unsafe for the young carers to use. The young carers used the trampoline on every club night and are very disappointed to lose it.

'It is very unfair that people keep destroying the trampoline and in weather like this it is the funnest time' – Arran

'It's not fair that our fun is being destroyed when we don't deserve it' – Amy and Saffron

Lorena Burlison

Manager

In the Easter break we had more activities. Pauline Parrington came along and showed us how to do French Knitting and how to make pom-poms.



The Tuesday group went to Finkley Down Farm Park in the second week and in the first week we took the Wednesday group to Romsey Rapids and the Thursday group to the Cinema.



The Wednesday group also had a craft day making bags, pom-poms and doing French knitting.

We have started a new feedback form which we get the young carers to fill out at the end of the evening to tell us how they felt the session was. It gives us new ideas for club activities and ensures that we give the young carers what they want.

Have you seen our website?

<http://www.andoveryoungcarers.org.uk/>

Managers News.....

I have been in post for 2 years and have seen a steady rise in the number of young carers we now support.

We now support up to 45 young carers through after-school clubs, 8 through sibling support, 3 buddies, 4 through counselling, up to 10 for homework club and 36 through sibling support workshop days – this brings the number of young carers we currently support on a yearly basis to 106. The increase is largely due to working along side Extended Services and the Special Needs Schools Head Teachers in Andover who recognise the need to support the siblings of children attending their schools who are effectively young carers. We also have a new position of Outreach Support Worker funded for 2 years by Lloyds TSB. This enables us to work alongside all schools in the Andover area by conducting assemblies and supporting young carers through schools. We have at present conducted assemblies to Bawksbury Junior School, Harrow Way, John Hanson, Winton and Testbourne. Young carers have been identified at all these schools as a result.

We were successful in our bid for another year of money from the Children's Fund for 2008/09 and have just completed our funding bid for 2009/10. This money pays some staffing costs, general running costs and some activities.

We have been granted another 3 years of funding through Children in Need which will primarily cover the salary costs of our Young Carers Supervisor, 2 Young Carers Workers and help with general running costs.

However, we are anxiously awaiting the outcome of our bid to the Big Lottery Fund which is due in July. This is needed to pay the Project Manager's salary!!!!!!!!!!

Our bid to Hampshire County Council for the purchase of a minibus and costs towards the Young Carers Festival was successful, and Test Valley Borough Council have granted us £1750 for training.

I would like to say thank you to Stannah for helping us with our security, also to 'The Dream Team' - Harry Johnston, Stewart Parrington and Brian Mehaffey who continue to support us through DIY and ground work.

We extend a warm welcome to Kelly White, Activity Worker and Darren Le-Petit Outreach Support Worker who have joined our team.

Lorena Burlison

Manager

Staff News.....

**Hello
I'm Kelly White**



I'm the Activities Worker at Andover Young Carers and the Club Leader for the Wednesday and Thursday group. I have worked with children and young people in a variety of jobs for 11 years and have worked at Andover Young Carers since November 2008.

The main activity that is on going with the Wednesday group is the Dragon's Den task.

I asked the young people to form groups and design a product that they thought would sell. They have designed a dog walking device, an interactive suit for a games console, earphones with a USB port, and a Hama beads device.

Over the next few months the young carers will be able to make a prototype of their product and then pitch it to our own dragons. I also wrote and emailed all the BBC Dragon's Den Entrepreneurs. We had a reply from Theo Paphitis' PA who sent a signed book to the Young Carers from Theo Paphitis.

Over the Easter holidays, we took the Wednesday group swimming and the Thursday group to the cinema.

Other activities included a pamper night for both groups and a games evening.



More Staff News.....

Darren Le-Petit Outreach Support Worker



At the beginning of March I took on the role of Outreach Support worker to help identify young carers within local schools.

My role is to offer one-to-one support and to further identify the young carers' needs until a long term plan is put in place.

I have already met with staff from most of the local secondary schools and have started holding assemblies in the hope that young people will recognise themselves as carers and come to us or the school for help.

Fundraising News.....

The Fundraising Committee under the Chair of Helen Mehaffey has disbanded.

Colin Teasdale has recently joined the Management Committee to take on this responsibility. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to organize a fundraising event Colin would be delighted to hear from you.

Some recent fundraising highlights include our third joint fundraising event shared with the Mityana project. This year's evening was an 'Abba Inferno' at St Marybourne Village Hall. 120 people, many in Abba costume, enjoyed a 3-course meal followed by dancing and sing-along to the Abba tribute band. Around £1300 was raised for AYC.

A substantial crowd of people attended the premiere performance of 'Florence' by the Chester Players at the Lights in April. We are deeply indebted to David and Vera Hughes for agreeing to perform this on behalf of Andover Young Carers. A total of £600.00 was raised.

Iris Anderson has been involved in many fundraising events for AYC and continues to supply a number of creative ideas for the future.

And many other friends, companies and supporters continue to help us in so many ways.

Many thanks to all of you – keep up your good work.

Being a Young Carer.....

Introduction: We are two children that have a father who has mental health issues and physical problems. We are both still at primary school in Andover.

Our Father:

Our father was involved in a motorcycle accident in June '07, which resulted in him being in a coma, being on a ventilator, having punctured lungs, metal plates in his jaw and shoulder, several broken bones and having a very severe brain injury. He was in hospital for 6 months, before being allowed home. After a further six months, he tried to return to work, but he was unable to work more than 12 hrs a week, and so was retired.

When he came home he was not the dad that we knew and loved. He would get very tired very quickly, go to bed early, and also get up very early – not the same as before! He had also become an angry man, with no temper or patience. Everything we did was wrong, or so dad thought.

We are very, very upset because of the injuries, most of all the brain injury. It affects him greatly.

Young Carers:

This is why we are going to Andover Young Carers. It gives us a chance to have a break and express our feelings (only if we want). Not only do we have a break but we can also enjoy the fun packed activities young carers have planned for us. We enjoy it and it helps us so much.

Thank you to Andover Young Carers!!!!!!

Tesco Computer vouchers – please help us.
We're saving up for a camcorder.

Management Committee News.....

Our Management Committee is now chaired by Jan Lovell with the following trustees, committee officers and members:

Chairman and Trustee	Jan Lovell
Secretary and Trustee	Pauline Parrington
Treasurer and Trustee	Sandra Burch
Trustee	Jim Neal
Trustee	Helen Mehaffey
Trustee	John Middleditch
Trustee	Per Sabroe
Trustee	Arthur Withers
Co-opted Member	Ivan Gould
Co-opted Member	Tracey Kirk
Co-opted Member	Colin Teasdale

Profile of:

Arthur Withers AIIRSM

Group Health and Safety Manager Simplyhealth Group.



In 2007 AYC was a supported charity for Simplyhealth Group Corporate Affairs. At the end of the support activities, it was identified that AYC would appreciate Health and Safety advice. Simplyhealth agreed to sponsor me to provide health and safety advice for an initial 2 months.

At the end of the period I was invited to join the management committee, for which Simplyhealth was pleased to continue the sponsorship. I have now become a Trustee of AYC, expanding my remit to cover premises and IT.

On a personal note I am 52 years old and live at Upper Clatford.

My main interests are music [I have a vast music collection, and also run my own trading company], Political history, travel and my beloved Reading Football Club, where I have been a season ticket holder for 34 very long years.

Health and Safety Report.....

We continue to improve The Bungalow.

Work completed recently includes:

1. Service of fire equipment to including emergency lighting.
2. New security panels for shutters and exits, kindly provided by Stannah.
3. Drainage soak-away outside the front door – we shouldn't get flooded when it rains now [TVBC].
4. IT support work to include change of office layout and cable tidy exercise.

Work in progress includes:

1. New security fence at the entrance kindly provided by Stannah.
2. New security lighting also provided by Stannah.
3. Removal of 2 trees at rear to prevent structural damage to the bungalow [TVBC].
4. Planting of non friendly plants at the footpath side of the bungalow [TVBC].

We are so grateful to Stannah for their continued support.



Our mini bus has arrived.....

Many thanks to Hampshire County Council and through fundraising we now have our own very much needed mini bus which will enable us to transport our children and young people from school to clubs and outings, and to take them home afterwards.