

Mencap's Annual Conference; Mencap's Big Day Out

On 16th October, 4 of our Ambassadors and 2 staff travelled to Aintree in Liverpool to attend National Mencap's Big Day Out. The annual conference was an opportunity for all the local groups to come together and to hear from staff and trustees at National Mencap. We heard about their Big Plan for next year - 5 key areas they want to focus on and how local groups can be involved. Watch this space for more details over the coming months! We networked with other local groups and learnt about what different services the groups offer. The members played ping pong and looked at why sports and sports clubs are important for people with learning disabilities. There was an art area, thinking about the benefits of people being able to express themselves through art. There was a 'ticket to ride' exhibit that showed how one local group have been making films and running training programmes to allow people to travel on public transport independently. The members attended a fantastic music session with The Music Man Project that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There were hair stylists available, and ice cream, candy floss, pop corn and slush puppies served by Mencap members. A fantastic and very inspiring day! Thank you to our Ambassadors who represented the Society fantastically well, chatting to Mencap trustees and group leaders throughout the day.



Recent Fundraising Events



Our Quiz Night on the 16th October welcomed 12 teams of quizzers and raised £475. Thank you to everyone that supported the event.

Local folk band Slapface and the Hoagies put on another fantastic gig for us on 13th November and the event raised £850. A superb time was had by all!



On Friday 27th November we had a stall at Keynsham Winter Festival with a tombola and cake sale. Despite a wet start we were kept busy and managed to sell out! Thanks to everyone that baked items for us, and to Paul, Andrew, Sue and Mary for standing out in the cold all evening! We raised £388.



Mencap Christmas Cards on Sale!

Some of you may remember that last year we ran a competition to design a Christmas card. The winning 8 designs were made into cards and sold to raise money for the Society. We weren't able to run the competition again this year, but we do have packs of last years designs for sale. You can buy a pack of 8 for £2.50.

Contact the office on 0117 9865659 or email info@keynshammencap.org.uk



Christmas Tree Festival

We will have a tree in the St John's Christmas Tree festival, decorated by our members. You can attend the festival at the church on
Friday 4th December, 6-9pm
Saturday 5th December, 10am-6pm
Sunday 6th December, 12-5pm.
There will be refreshments and live music.

Thank You!

St Margaret's Church in Queen Charlton for their donation following a harvest lunch event and auction.

The Lodge of True Friendship for their donation following a collection at Bath Races.

Harley Owners Group for all the new equipment they have purchased for us. We've had a new camera, cooking equipment, art and craft supplies, toys, books and games, yoga mats, karaoke machine, PA system and a new iPad!

Mr and Mrs Gray for their donation to Sat Club.

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to our new fundraiser Laura Butler. Laura joined the team on 9th November and will be working in the office two days a week. Laura will be arranging to come and visit the clubs shortly to meet the members and to see first hand what goes on. We're delighted to welcome to her to the team. Having 2 Laura's in the office might get confusing though!

We also say a warm welcome to Christine (Chris) Northey who joins us as the new leader at Keynsham Junior Club.

Welcome as well to new volunteers Nick, Lucy and Kath at 18+, and Lizzie at KJ.

Keynsham Juniors Sponsored Dance and Christmas Fayre

Well done to the children from Keynsham Juniors who raised £330 from a sponsored danceathon. Special thanks to volunteers Kayleigh and Georgia who led the party dances.

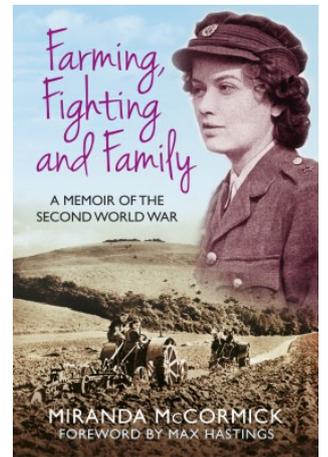
Thanks to the parents and carers who attended the club's recent Christmas Fayre. An enjoyable evening with cakes, refreshments, raffle and stalls. The night raised £191 for the club.

Author Donating Profits from Sale of Book

An author is donating the profits from her new book to the Society. The author, Miranda McCormick, has a relative who accesses Keynsham Mencap's services, and is giving the proceeds from her book, *Farming, Fighting and Family: A Memoir of the Second World War*, to 18+ Club.

Wiltshire farmer, author and broadcaster Arthur (A.G.) Street was one of the leading voices of British agriculture during the Second World War. His daughter Pamela was 18 when war broke out. Her contributions to the war effort included working on her father's farm, nursing in the local military hospital, and serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). Her future husband, David McCormick, served with the 4th Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) in North Africa. Captured in December 1941, he endured the remainder of the war in prison camps in Italy and Germany. Using previously unpublished diaries and letters, Pamela's daughter, Miranda McCormick, weaves together her family's very differing wartime experiences to give a vivid account of a West Country family living and working during a time of national adversity.

To order a copy go to www.thehistorypress.co.uk or call direct sales on 01235 465577.



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With Christmas around the corner, now is the perfect time to get signed up for Give As You Live. Every time you shop online, a percentage of what you spend is donated to us - at no extra cost to you! It is so straight forward and doesn't cost you a penny. Simply go to their website, register, and every time you shop online a red tool bar pops up to ask you to switch it on. You don't get any spam or put on any mailing lists. The address is www.giveasyoulive.com. With Christmas shopping to be done, sign up now and help us raise money just by purchasing your gifts online!



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Volunteer Birthdays! November and December

Happy Birthday to...

Georgina Havcock - 12 November

Jason Preston - 12 November

Mike Bull - 14 November

Grace O'Hara - 23 November

Megan Smith - 30 November

Julia Evans - 3 December

Mikey Galaszia - 15 December



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