



## Mencap Beacon

We are delighted to announce that we have become a Mencap Gateway Beacon Club. Gateway beacons are existing leisure clubs across England and Northern Ireland which are partnering with Mencap over the next three years. These clubs aim to advance the personal development of people with a learning disability through sport, recreation and social opportunities by promoting greater choice and independence. The beacon clubs all offer high-quality leisure services to people with a learning disability. Beacons also share a desire to develop and innovate by serving as positive role models to other clubs. As a Beacon Club we will be developing a network of clubs that are supportive of one another and sharing our knowledge and skills with other clubs in the area.

We are one of only 9 Gateway Beacon clubs across the UK out of over 250 affiliated Mencap Local groups and are very excited to be working with Mencap and other Local Groups on this project.



## Gateway Beacon

Working better together

## Great Western HOG Charity of the Year



Very many thanks to Tony Yendle for nominating us as a potential charity of the year for his motorcycle club, Great Western Harley Owners Group (HOG). We are thrilled to have been chosen and jointly with Chepstow Mencap we will be their nominated charity for the next 2 years. We are looking forward to planning lots of exciting events with members of the motorcycle club and Chepstow Mencap. Look out for more details of upcoming events in the next newsletter.

If you or someone you know would like to nominate us to be charity of the year for your employer or club then we would love to hear from you.

## 18+ Café Night

Thank you to all the members, friends and family that came to the 18+ café evening on 14th November. The members enjoyed organising and running the evening that had a name the bear, tombola, gifts stall, cake sale and raffle. An enjoyable evening was had by all and the evening raised £230 for activities for the club.

## Keynsham Juniors Fundraising Evening

Keynsham Juniors also hosted a fundraising evening with cakes and refreshments, book sale, bric a brac, stalls, gifts and a raffle that raised £232 for the club. It was great to see so many friends and family support the event. Thank you to everyone that came and to all who donated gifts and prizes.



## Football. Sunday 10th November South West Disability League

The FA have decided to alter the league format of the Disability League and so there are now 3 divisions, with 6 teams in each. This means games are fairer and the teams get to play and longer games. We are placed in the second division. The boys all played well at their last fixture and there was a huge improvement on last month. The team played 4 matches and won 2, drew 1 and lost 1. Well done boys! The team are now training hard for their next fixture on Sunday 8th December. Best of luck, we are all behind you!

## Christmas Tree Festival

This December, Keynsham Mencap will once again be taking part in St John's Christmas Tree Festival. The festival will consist of Christmas trees decorated by various groups from the local area and over 60 local groups and organisations are taking part. Our tree will be decorated by some of our members committee with decorations they have made at 18+ Club.

The festival takes place at St John's Church and is open Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 9th December. During the festival weekend there will be a range of musical events and refreshments.

Thank you to Sue Jeffery for her artistic skills and helping the members to make their decorations.



## Thank You!

Jenny Owen for hosting a Body Shop with friends and raising £130 for the society.

Cathy and Mac for driving the football team to their league fixtures

Everyone who attended the 18+ and KJ fundraising evenings and those who baked cakes and/or donated prizes

Sue Jeffery for helping the 18+ members to make Christmas tree decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival.

**Welcome!** We welcome Beth Piper and Clare Smith to Saturday Club. Welcome to the team!

**Farewell!** We are sad to say goodbye to James Dean from KJ. We wish James all the best.



## Save the Date

Please put a note in your diary to keep Friday 14th March free as we are planning a fundraising Race Night. The event will take place at Saltford Hall at 7pm. Further details will follow in the new year. This will be a fun social evening for members, their families, volunteers and other supporters of the Society and we hope many of you will join us.

## Children in Need Appeal Night

As our Saturday Club is a Children in Need funded project we were lucky enough to receive an invite to the appeal night event at The Roman Baths. Some of the children from Saturday club attended the evening, where they met Pudsey and watched the Bath school children's choir performance that was shown on BBC during the Children in Need show.



There was also live music and samba drumming, characters from Dr Who and a Tardis and appearances from Bath Rugby players. A fun night was had by all!

## Give As You Live

Thank you to everyone that has signed up to this scheme so far. Signing up is such a simple way to raise funds for us. Every time you shop online at hundreds of stores a percentage of the amount spent gets donated, at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is register, select Keynsham & District Mencap and then get shopping! Just visit [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) to get started.



## Unwanted Christmas Gifts Collection

If you receive a gift this Christmas that you are unlikely to use then we'd be grateful if you would donate it to us to be used as a raffle prize at one of our fundraising events. Perhaps consider organising a collection box for unwanted gifts at your workplace? Any donations, large or small will be very gratefully received and can be brought to the office or given to a club leader to pass on. Thank you.



**We'd like to wish all of our members and their families, our staff and volunteers and all our friends and supporters a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year.**

**We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.**

The clubs return dates after the Christmas break are as follows:

**Fitness Club** - Monday 6th January

**Keynsham Under 11's / Radstock Juniors / Football Club** - Tuesday 7th January

**Keynsham Over 11's** - Thursday 9th January

**18+ Club** - Thursday 9th January

**Saturday Club** - Saturday 11th January



## Volunteer Birthdays! November and December

### Happy Birthday to...

Mike Bull - 14 Nov

Ruth Bright - 14 Nov

Grace O'Hara - 23 Nov (18)

Sophie Jeffries - 26 Nov (18)

Lucy Lucas - 1 Dec

Shaun Kendal - 2 Dec

Julia Evans - 3 Dec

Alex Williams - 23 Dec

Shaorn Hamilton - 26 Dec

Christine Charnley - 27 Dec



**Hope you have/had a great day!**

## Contact Details

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