

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES Annual General Meeting 23rd Sept 2021

Covid restrictions meant the cancellation of our AGM last year, so this meeting was particularly important. We decided to start earlier as we wanted to encourage families of our younger members to attend but sadly, apart from the trustees, two other parents and one supporter, only members themselves attended. Where were you???

The last eighteen months of pandemic restrictions have been an extremely challenging time for all of us. Initially, who knew how long it would last, how many people would be affected, the reality of lockdowns with restrictions on seeing loved ones, friends, and generally getting out and about in our communities? The outlook was bleak but the trustees took a leap of faith and kept all our staff on throughout. They in turn repaid our trust by supporting our members through mailouts, zoom sessions, phone calls and doorstep visits where possible. They were, as always, assisted by our amazing band of volunteers who helped in these efforts.

There was also the financial impact. Many of our costs remained but some income was lost. Nevertheless, we pulled through due to tremendous fundraising efforts by our staff, members, families, supporters and the local community.

However, there will be new challenges ahead which the Society must face so that the needs of members and their families can be catered for.

Parents, friends, supporters: we need your expertise and experience in order to survive!

Please consider what you could bring to helping this wonderful organisation to go forward.

Lisa O'Brien

Chair of Trustees

Club25 Holiday to Cornwall

After having to postpone last year we were thrilled when restrictions were lifted in time for us to take a group of C25 members away to Cornwall. A much needed break and change of scenery for everyone involved.

We stayed at Waterloo Farm in 5 cottages. We made use of the heated outdoor pool, watched sunsets, made pizzas in the garden pizza oven and enjoyed visiting local attractions.

Thank you as ever to our wonderful volunteers who made this trip possible; Amanda, Charlotte, Izzy, Kath, Kristy, Philippa and newbie Aine!



Fresh Start for SENSations

After a few bumps in the road, we are finally in a position to re-open our SENSations Club again!

When Nicola stepped down we had to find a new leader, and for a number of reasons we also had to find a new venue. It's been a trying time to get everything in place, but we have now recruited Vicky Burford as the club leader, Molly Hale as the deputy, and we've found a new home at Broadlands School.

We'd like to thank Nicola, the outgoing leader, for continuing to arrange meet ups and activities in the park for the children in the meantime, and we're delighted that she will be staying on as a volunteer with the club.

We're looking forward to seeing all the children and young people back at club.

If you'd like to volunteer for the club please get in touch as we really do need some more helpers at these sessions.



Vicky and Molly are looking forward to welcoming the children at club

Thank You!

Niall for continuing to support us with looking after the minibuses!

SENSations member Toby and his sister Abbie who held a cake sale and raised £318 which will be split between Mencap and Save the Children.

TrekFest

Charlotte Hobbs, the niece of Club25 member Neil, and her friend Carly Bilder took part in TrekFest 2021; a 25km trek across the Brecon Beacons. It was a tough challenge but they were in the top 14% of finishers and completed the distance in under 6 hours. They raised over £570.

What an amazing achievement ladies, and thank you for your support.



Halloween Party for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Join us on Friday 29 October for a Spooktacular evening at our Halloween party. We've got a disco, bar, buffet and a raffle. Come in fancy dress if you like, but this is optional.

7:30 - 10:30pm. Masonic Hall in Keynsham (BS31 1SR). Free car park on site.

Tickets are available from the office now and cost £10. Carers go free.

You can pay on the door, but please reserve a ticket in advance if you can so we know approx. numbers for catering.

This event is open to all adults with learning disabilities even if they aren't members of the Society, so please let your friends know and invite them along!



Volunteer Birthdays for October

Happy Birthday to...

Mykenzie Evans
Holly Rawlings
Katy Llewellyn

Have a great day!



Welcome!

Hello to new volunteers Alex at C25, Georgia at Super Saturday Club and Robbie to Football Club. Welcome to the team!

Quiz Night

It's back! The popular Mencap Quiz.

Saturday 6th November at Saltford Hall.

Doors open at 7pm. Tickets now on sale, £10 per person, which includes a ploughman's supper. There will be a licensed bar to purchase drinks, and a raffle. Message us on Facebook, call 0117 986 5659 or email

amanda@keynshammencap.org.uk to book your team now. Maximum team size of 6. There is a limit to numbers in the hall so please book your team early to avoid disappointment. You can pay on the door or pre-pay via bank transfer.



Round the World Challenge Update

So far participants taking part in this challenge have clocked up over 240 hours of activity!

We've had a variety of sessions, and have even more booked for the autumn.

Clubbercise, trampolining, tae kwon do, hockey, barn dancing, tennis, athletics, and more! We still have spaces if anyone would like to sign up to the challenge.

Choose how many hours you want to achieve and join in the activities that interest you.



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