

WINTER NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

The Autumn Term is always a busy one and our visits need to be completed before Advent as there are so many school activities in this period. We have contacted 292 schools and visited 31. The number contacted includes the arrangements for schools involved in the Chichester Disability Awareness Week and the Horsham Drama Workshop. 350 children and their teachers attended the Drama Workshop.

Our hopes of solving our administrative problems are still unsolved as although we appointed Linda Bowman as Co-ordinator, Linda has had so many sad personal problems and difficulties it has been impossible for her to retain the post.

However, there have been some improvements:

Joan has been appointed as Secretary/PA to our Honorary Chairman and Lisa Chandler has been appointed Outreach Worker and it is hoped that additional staff will join us in the near future.

The two big events of the past term were well supported. Chichester Disability Awareness Week 9-14 October started with many organisations supporting the disabled and elderly gathering at Chichester Yacht Club where we were provided with a super buffet and the opportunity to meet with friends and build on new acquaintances. We were happy to have the company of the Duke of Richmond and the Chairman of the Chichester District Council, as well as the Mayors of Chichester, Bognor and Havant. Peter Pine opened the Meeting giving a resumé of our activities and the Chairman of Chichester District Council replied.

Our main contribution to the week was a day of Drama Workshops at The Venue, attended by 250 children. This was warmly received and schools have asked us to repeat it next year.

We are very grateful to the following people for their contributions to this event:

Chichester City Council; Superspecs; Multiple Sclerosis Society; Chichester Yacht Club and John Wetter.

Our last event, at the Millennium Hall, Horsham, on 1 November was also well received and is a definite must for another year.

All the Drama Workshops were successfully organised by Laura Dymock and we thank her warmly for her efforts so soon after the arrival of her baby daughter.

One of the activities at the Assembly Room was by the Performing Arts Department of Treloar College. A talented performance was enjoyed by an appreciative audience of their presentation of "Perception" - a performance which was very thought-provoking.

Training Officer

We are happy to announce that Laura Dymock has accepted this role, recently vacated by Ruth Foster. Ruth gave 5 years of hard effort with the Charity, first as a speaker and latterly as our Trainer. We know of her many other successful commitments and know that she will continue to support us as a Friend. We are also pleased to confirm that Performing Arts Department at Treloar College has offered to host our Hampshire training sessions there.

Outreach Work

Our Outreach Worker has started with the task of locating office accommodation in Chichester and Crawley for our volunteers. The Chichester office will be the Sussex Branch of Disability Awareness in the Community whilst Crawley will be the base involved in recruiting and training young disabled with IT experience as well as those giving Talks in schools.

IT Training

We are still searching for suitable premises for our IT Tutor for disabled/ disadvantaged young people 18-25 who want to continue their computer training, having been let

down by the previous offer of premises for September. However, we are still able to offer students instruction in their own home on their own computer and administrative experience on a 1 : 1 basis.

Disability Awareness in the Community

We have to say thank you for the Scarman Trust for enabling us to develop Disability Awareness in the Community in the Portsmouth and SE Hants area. Our Outreach Worker will also be involved

Pam Skilton, sponsored Harbour Walk. Pam walked 16 miles in dreadful weather and her efforts were supported by Roger Croft, Manager of the local Barclays Bank. We are very thankful to Roger as we have recently received a cheque from Barclays for £280.

Third Sector Excellence Awards

We were proud to be runners-up in this prestigious event.

What is Ahead?

We have been invited by the Mayor of Havant to hold a Disability Awareness Week in Havant in April or May

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Hampshire Area Office:
As from 9th November, 2006 our Hampshire Office will be based at 1 West Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DN. Volunteers are invited for a coffee and mince pie morning on Thursday December 14 at 10.30am.

Activities at this office will include :
Our Outreach Worker, Volunteering, I.T. Training Opportunities for young disabled and disadvantaged young people from 18-25years and admin training for volunteers. Voluntary admin assistance would be appreciated.



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