



West
Berkshire
Mencap

NEWSDESK

WBMENCAP CHRISTMAS CONCERT ST NICOLAS CHURCH, 13TH DECEMBER 2023



Harmony Choir

We blew the roof off St Nicolas Church, Newbury at the West Berkshire Mencap Christmas Concert where a variety of local acts wowed a jubilant audience with their talent and performances. Many in the audience wore Christmas jumpers sequins and other Christmassy accessories.

Suzy Alder ex Head Girl of St Barts School who performs and teaches music alongside running a consultancy in the charity sector offered her services as Musical Director and put together a wonderful programme for the evening. Thank you Suzy for your time and energy.

**So
Missy**



**Suzy Von Alder
and family**



**Ben Pointer
Soloist**



**Liz Parkin
Cellist & pianist**



A big thank you also to all the wonderful performers who gave their time and talent to give us all a fabulous and entertaining evening.



Nick Cope entertained us with his funny and charming songs. Singer songwriter and presenter for CBeebies pop cast



The Mencap Choir wowed the audience with a lively performance of "Rocking around the Christmas Tree"

After the concert the guests were given Christmas cake, mince pies, mulled wine and we drew the Christmas Hamper raffle

SPiRiT OF THE VALE CHRiSTMAS SALE



We received a fantastic £6,200 for West Berkshire Mencap from the Spirit Christmas sale with 32 carefully curated stalls organised by Ruth Corfield and situated in her wonderful Medieval barn (and additional tent sponsored by REDCREST EVENTS allowing more stalls/selling space)

Massive thanks to Ruth and her husband Rupert (chief car park attendant). We must also thank generous event sponsors SAVILLS for covering all costs of putting on the event allowing all profits to the chosen charities and the Star Inn for donating delicious nibbles and Mulled wine

Ruth said "The work Mencap do for people locally and in particular with Respite Care through The Shepherds Hut project made it an obvious choice when trying to pick this years beneficiaries".

CHRiSTMAS WRiEATH MAKiNG WORKSHOP

What a fun evening everyone had at the Mencap centre making Christmas wreaths on 11th December whilst enjoying mulled wine and festive nibbles. **£450** was raised for the charity as part of our Christmas fundraising activities.



by Eli Mulberry Manager



ADULT DAY SERVICES USERS CELEBRATE AT THEIR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held at the British Legion, Newbury Thursday 7th December.



Paul Harris commented that everyone had a great time enjoying a delicious buffet and raffle. Many showed off their talent on the dance floor at the disco with some excellent fancy footwork on show.



DUNELM DELIVER JOY!

SCHEME BENEFITS WEST BERKSHIRE MENCAP CHILDREN



On Wednesday 14th December we were visited by Marta and Ryan from Dunelm in Newbury with their own sled full of toys.

A big thank you to them and all the Elves at Dunelm in Newbury for planning and organising their campaign to 'Deliver Joy'.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated to the appeal which makes such a difference to the families we support.

We were lucky enough to schedule a drop in from Santa at our Christmas Party on Thursday 21st December. All the Children had a fabulous time and were delighted with the gifts from our very generous Community.



Dunelm kindly visited us for a second time on December 19th which enabled us to 'Deliver even more joy' to more of our families.

Huge thanks to all at Dunelm in Newbury from us all at West Berkshire Mencap and we hope you all had a fabulous Christmas – you really did 'Deliver Joy!'

FRIENDSHIP SKILLS CHRISTMAS END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Friendship Skills members invited family, carers and friends along to Link Up to celebrate the end of a busy 2023. The group started with a presentation and talked about some of the highlights during 2023 before joining their carers and friends for a cuppa and some Christmas treats.



We were also very lucky to have Yvonne and Jeremy with us, two of our volunteers, who got us all up dancing while Jeremy played his accordion. What a treat!

Finally to round everything off, we had our annual Christmas Quiz!

NEWBURY STITCH FAIR



Our second Stitch Fair took place on 10/11 November 2023 with stalls selling fabrics, yarns and haberdashery situated in the Kennet centre.

Over the road at St Nics church hall were a selection of workshops including sewing machine skills, fabric printing and quilting.

Over £1,000 was raised for the Charity and we would like to thank Janone, the Kennet Centre and Marion Scott-Baker and Gill Leech for organising the stalls and workshops.

It was great to welcome so many sewers, both beginners and experienced to the second Newbury Stitch Fair. This busy fair provided lots of opportunities to purchase fabrics haberdashery and attend a variety of workshops. We are delighted that national stall holders supported the event and raised much needed funds for West Berkshire Mencap.



Graeme Leech

AGM NEWS

Graeme Leech (Trustee) takes over as chairman as Paul Pointer stands down as interim Chair of West Berkshire Mencap to concentrate on his ongoing role as Treasurer.



Paul Pointer

Many thanks to both of them for their continued hard work and dedication to West Berkshire Mencap. All the trustees stood and were re-elected again apart from Louise Ching (previously Louise Thompson) who didn't stand as she is moving out of area. We would like to thank Louise for all of her support over many years.



SAVE THE DATE

WEST BERKSHIRE MENCAP RACE DAY 1ST MARCH 2024

We now have Howdens Insurance as our Raceday sponsor (both races)
Many thanks to them for their generosity



- We are still taking bookings for remaining tables
- Companies can advertise their services in our race day brochure
- We are looking for more raffle and auction prizes for race day

Happy New Year to you all



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