

news

Issue 2 Autumn 2007

Swings & Smiles will be an indoor and outdoor recreational facility in West Berkshire for all children with special needs and their families.



www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk

a place to play

We've gained Charity Status

Great News! Swings & Smiles is now a charity. We were awarded our charity status at the end of August. This makes a considerable difference and will help with grant applications and also allow us to claim Gift Aid from taxpayers who make a donation. **Our charity number is 1120598.** We are enormously grateful to Tom Pratt at **Bates Wells & Braithwaite** for all his hard work in gaining our charity status.

Just Giving

Another benefit of being a registered charity is that we could register with the Just Giving website. This allows people to sponsor and donate in a simple and straightforward way as well as being financially efficient as all tax payers can indicate that they are and so we will once again be able to benefit from Gift Aid.

Anyone who wishes to do a fundraising event on behalf of Swings & Smiles can create their own fundraising page – the more creative the better!



Our address on the Just Giving website is:
www.justgiving.com/swingsandsmiles

Planning Update

The planning application drawings for the new Swings & Smiles centre, along with the enabling housing development, are in the final stages of preparation. We hope to have the planning application submitted by mid/late October, from when the Local Authority will have three months in which to decide whether or not the proposed development is an appropriate use of the land in question. Sian, Susan and myself all met with the architect to review the latest draft plans in early September, and have all been busy inputting into the final design of the centre and the grounds around it.

Assuming we are successful with the planning application, the construction of the centre is likely to take approximately 12-18 months. The lead in time between obtaining planning permission and starting on site would most likely be in the region of 6 months, to allow us time to agree the finer details of the centre's design with the planners and to make the necessary technical preparations for a start on site.

To that end, it is our hope that the site should be ready for handover to be fitted out and prepared ready for use by the summer of 2009. If you have any questions about the planning process or comments or suggestions for design elements for inclusion in the centre, please do not hesitate to email me at marknorgate@btconnect.com

Mark Norgate
Managing Director

Donnington
New Homes

Running for Swings & Smiles

Someone who has already taken advantage of our Just Giving website is Catherine Grist. Catherine and two friends, Kirsty Milner and Denise Mather have given themselves the challenge of running in ten 10K challenges over the next six months on behalf of Swings & Smiles, culminating in the Reading Half Marathon.

They took part in their first run, the Reading 020 10K, at the beginning of September and were thrilled that they completed it in 64 mins 39 secs for Catherine, 63 mins 36 secs for Kirsty and a speedy 59 mins 40 secs for Denise.



Catherine said: **'We were all very happy to have completed the first race in a reasonable time, and looking forward to the challenges of the next 9 races!!'**

Lee Frame Trust

Swings & Smiles have received a substantial donation from the **Lee Frame Trust**. The trust was set up by Lee's two friends, Adam Clayton and Chris Clacy, to raise money to send Lee to the States for treatment for his cancer. Adam and Chris decided to go ahead with a charity golf day the day after Lee had been told by his doctors that there was nothing more that they could do for him. £40,000 was raised with the golf tournament and auction.



Bev Frame, Lee's mother, heard all about Swings & Smiles on **Kick fm** and thought that this would be an ideal way of donating some of the money raised. Initially, it had been thought it wouldn't be possible to do anything golf related in Lee's memory. However, after some discussion with Graham Page of Swings & Smiles, it became apparent that it could be done by creating a sort of Crazy Golf course which would be accessible by wheelchairs too. Those in wheelchairs and those with limited mobility and co-ordination could use special golf clubs and also attachments to their wheelchairs. All concerned are very excited about the project and Lee's family and friends all feel that this is exactly what Lee would have wanted. It will be named after Lee.

A cheque for £20,000 was presented by Adam Clayton and Chris Clacy to Swings & Smiles at the Corn Exchange in Newbury on Thursday 13 September. Receiving the cheque on behalf of Swings & Smiles were Graeme Murty, captain of Reading FC and patron of Swings & Smiles together with trustees, Sian Cook, Susan Langley and Derek Hardman. Chris and Adam said: **'We are very excited about this project as it is helping children with special needs in the local community whilst keeping Lee's name alive. It is also golf related which Lee would have loved.'**

Parachute Jumps

In the first newsletter, we wrote about planned tandem parachute jumps by a group of brave people from **West Berkshire Council's Planning Department**. The idea was David Foster's who is himself disabled with cerebral palsy but considers himself lucky compared with Amy Cook, Sian's daughter, as he has always had play options. The jumps were planned for 4 July, Independence Day but had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. It took place at Redlands Airfield in Wanborough, Swindon on 8 July with clear blue skies. The others who jumped with David were Gary Lugg, Head of Planning and Trading Standards; Derek Carnegie, Planning Team Leader, Western Area; Steve Broughton, Building Control Manager and Sarah Spencer, Planning Support Services Officer. David spoke on behalf of all who jumped and said that the whole experience had been quite simply 'amazing'.



A further tandem parachute jump took place on one of the other rare sunny days this summer on Friday 10 August. Maz Jones, Sales Executive at **Kick fm** jumped with her sister, which was an 18th birthday present. A number of the Kick fm team were there to support Maz. £800 was raised for Swings & Smiles, thanks to the clients of Kick fm. Maz's brother died earlier this year and she had told him before he died that doing a parachute jump for charity was one of the two things she wanted to do in her life. She said: **'I'm really proud to have done the parachute jump for Swings & Smiles and to have raised this amount for such a worthwhile charity.'**



Newbury Wine Festival

The first Newbury Wine Festival is taking place this month. Sponsors of the event, **Brook Street**, are supporting four local charities. Swings & Smiles is lucky to be one of these charities and a cheque for £625 was presented at the launch of the festival at the Corn Exchange on 13 September. Graeme Murty received the cheque together with trustees, Sian Cook, Susan Langley and Derek Hardman. Nick Willcocks from **Step Up Wines**, organiser of the event said: **'We are delighted, as the first ever Newbury Wine Festival to be supporting Swings & Smiles, this is a wonderful cause inspired by dedicated and committed people, and we will do all we can to continue to support going forward.'**

Casino Night

The Carnarvon Arms at Burghclere held a Casino Royale Night at the end of July in aid of Swings & Smiles. Diners enjoyed a delicious 3-course meal which was then followed by playing in the 'casino'. Everyone entered into the spirit of the evening with both guests and staff dressing up accordingly.

A staggering £471 was raised, by the Carnarvon Arms donating £2 for each diner and guests donating money for playing on the roulette tables.

The overall winner at the end of the evening even gave his prize of a meal voucher for £50 at the Carnarvon Arms to raise money for Swings & Smiles at a future event!

Trustees

We are delighted to say that two more trustees have joined the Swings & Smiles board. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience:

Mike Reynolds has retired after a career in Public Relations and Marketing. Recent roles included ten years as Public Affairs Director of Courage Group and another nine years as Chief Executive of Sportmatch, the government's sponsorship incentive programme for grass roots sport.

Derek Hardman is an IT professional, with 35 years' experience in the industry. He is the Director of Governance Systems for Fujitsu Services, one of Europe's leading IT Services Companies. He is a Member of the British Computer Society and a Director of Intellect, the UK IT trade association.

Newbury Races Bucket Collection



Thanks to Sue Roberts, Swings & Smiles were able to do the bucket collection at Newbury Racecourse on Saturday 22 September at the end of the John Smiths Stakes meeting. All who collected wore the new Swings & Smiles T-shirts which Graeme and Karen Murty had persuaded Graeme's sponsor **Puma** to supply and **Gazkaz** kindly applied the logo. It was an extremely successful collection as a massive £2652.92 was raised.

Thank you to all who collected – Holly Cook, Jess Brown, Nicole Fowler, Katya Storchak, Sophie Wilson, Diana, Jo and Ben Bridges, Carrie, Will and Mercedes Stoneman, Diane Gallo, Terry Cook and Derek Hardman.

Forthcoming Events

Race Day

A Race Day is planned for Wednesday 16 January 2008 at Newbury Racecourse, hosted by our founder patron and BBC TV presenter Clare Balding. Matches permitting, the Reading FC players will be joining us and you can choose to have a player as a guest on your table. One of the races will be for Swings & Smiles and Peter Baker from the **Peter Baker Foundation** will be sponsoring the race. The day will start with a champagne reception which will then be followed by a delicious three course lunch and auction. Racing will start at 1pm. The cost of attending is £1000 for a table of ten or £100 per person and this will also include Premier Enclosure admission badges as well as car parking. This should be a wonderful day and we would be delighted if you could join us. If you would like more information or to register your interest, please contact Sian Cook on **07988 782832**.

Reading Half Marathon

We are planning a Swings & Smiles 'team' for the Reading Half Marathon on Sunday 2 March 2008. Catherine Grist, Adam Clayton and Chris Clacy have already registered. If you would like to join, wear a Swings & Smiles T-shirt etc please contact Sian Cook on **07988 782832** for more information and a sponsorship form.

Help Wanted!

We would welcome help with our future fundraising. If anyone has some time to spare, we would be very grateful of your help. If you would like to find out more, please contact Sian Cook on **07988 782832** or email sian@swingsandsmiles.co.uk

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