

SeeSaw

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★
SeeSaw's 10th Birthday
★



Grief Support for the
Young in Oxfordshire

JANUARY 2010



Geraldine Peers joins SeeSaw

We are thrilled to announce that **Geraldine Peers**, BBC Oxford TV newsreader, will become **SeeSaw's fourth Patron** on 28th January 2010, joining our existing Patrons Raymond Blanc, Virginia Grant and Lady Sylvia McLintock.

"I'm so pleased to be involved with SeeSaw. My Mum died while I was at still at school. I know the support SeeSaw offers makes a difference to a lot of children and their families."

Early Birthday Present from Le Manoir

Our 2010 fundraising has got off to a wonderful start with a surprise birthday present of £20,000 from Le Manoir and Raymond Blanc, who is a Patron of SeeSaw. This is the biggest single donation from a company ever and is a truly magnificent gift. It comes on top of Raymond's generosity in hosting a wonderful dinner at Le Manoir in October, donating many auction prizes and arranging some special thank yous.



Dear Supporter,

2010 is a big year for SeeSaw as we celebrate our 10th birthday of supporting bereaved children in Oxfordshire. Small charities often struggle to find a sound financial footing after the excitement and enthusiasm of starting up, so this newsletter is to let you know how confident we're feeling for the next ten years!

As one of our supporters, we hope you might be able to join us at our party on July 18th or maybe even at the Elegant Ball on 24th April.

We know many are having to be extra careful with money, so this newsletter comes with a special

THANK YOU to everyone who has been able to make a gift of money or time to support SeeSaw. We have created a new page on our website to show our appreciation of everyone who's supported us in the last financial year. Our Annual Review, which we've combined with a look back over the past 10 years, is also now available to view via our website at www.seesaw.org.uk. Please do take a moment to have a look or let us know if you would like us to send you a copy through the post – especially if you'd like to share one with friends or colleagues.

Rosie Nicol-Harper



The Elegant Ball takes place on **Saturday 24th April 2010** in a luxurious marquee at Millets Farm, Frilford Heath. Champagne Reception and canapés, delicious meal, fabulous entertainment and a few surprises **in aid of SeeSaw**. To book or find out more details please contact **Caroline Trevers: 01865 391888** or go to **www.elegantball.com**

If you go to one ball in 2010 make sure it is this one!

Abingdon Marathon—what a finish!

Running conditions were perfect for the **Abingdon Marathon** on Sunday 18th October. Grateful thanks to the race organisers for choosing SeeSaw as their main charity which raised a colossal **£7,000!** Thanks to Bev and Ian Cole, Dee Rhoden, Courtenay, Ray and Rona Norbury and Rosie's family for manning the water station at the 22 mile marker. Congratulations to race winner **Paul Martelletti** and to all who took part. Here is Paul with his medal (picture supplied by Sussex Sport Photography)



Success at the Bunkfest or should that be Bankfest?

Matched funding is a great way for companies to support SeeSaw and for their employees to get involved in helping local bereaved children.

Barclays Personal Banker, Rachael Ladhani, pictured here with her son Zane, helped to run the SeeSaw stall at the **Wallingford Bunkfest** in September. **Barclays** matched funding policy meant that we were able to double our earnings from the event which raised **£981.80**.

Check with your employer to see whether they will match fund your next fundraising event for SeeSaw—it could double your money.



Bewitched by the Ladies of Harley



On 31st October the **Ladies of Harley Davidson Oxford** held a Halloween themed coffee morning and raffle at the **Harley Davidson Oxford** dealership to raise money for SeeSaw. The “witches” also sold cakes to drivers waiting at the road junction, who *mostly* entered into the spirit of the event and gave generously to SeeSaw. Those who didn't donate had an evil spell cast upon them! (not really).

The event raised **£394.24**—grateful thanks to Elaine Shepherd and Ladies of Harley—that was really **WICKED!**

The time of day was 4.20 a.m. on 24th June 2009 at the **Tadmerton Golf Club**. The Challenge was to play 100 holes of golf in one day. Many thanks to everyone who made this day possible and for sponsoring the participants **Guy Sambrook, Mark Boscott, Brian Phipps and Martin Clarke** who have raised a massive £1825.00 so far, and the money is still coming in! Thank you and well done—a fantastic achievement.



SeeSaw bowled over by Grand Draw total

Grateful thanks to **John and Freddie Austin** and to the **English Bowling Association** and to **Sam and Joyce Justin** from **Carterton Bowls Club** for organising the SeeSaw Grand Draw. The winning tickets were drawn by SeeSaw Trustee, Kay Symons, on Thursday 26th November at **Carterton Bowls Club**.

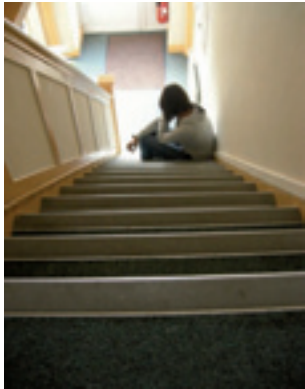
The raffle raised a staggering **£3,303** for SeeSaw. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Eynsham Road Runners 100 mile relay

The **Eynsham Road Runners** are great supporters of local charities and this year they chose SeeSaw as one of their good causes for their 100 mile relay fundraising event. Here we are with the other recipients at the cheque presentation evening collecting £700—thank you very much indeed!



Exploring difficult feelings through photography



A powerful image taken by one of the young people

This Autumn we held two events as part of our Side by Side initiative bringing bereaved young people and families together.

The first event was a small group of young people who came together to meet each other and to explore feelings with the use of photographs. Judie Waldmann a photographic artist had volunteered to work with the young people using her skills in photography. She helped the youngsters explore the use of photography, composition and lighting

to express some of the feelings they have experienced in their bereavement.

It must have been the wettest windiest day of the year as we set off to Shotover to capture some images in the wood. Hot chocolate and fish and chips soon revived the spirits and the afternoon was spent working on still life compositions. It has to be said the results are amazing and the images can be seen at a number of our 10th Anniversary events. One youngster reported this was “a day to meet up with new people and have fun taking photos and learning about photo feelings”

Preparing for Christmas



The second event was organised with young families in mind as many of them prepare for their first Christmas without their loved one. Seven families attended including nine adults and thirteen children ages ranged from 8 – 16 years. The afternoon was spent in games and craft activities for the children and time for the parents to talk together about how to help their children through Christmas. The children went

home clutching Christmas memory jars, Christmas cards and baubles to remember their special person as well as iced gingerbread figures and a candle to light on Christmas day.

One youngster told us “SeeSaw helped to take your mind off it and helped you make friends with the same problem you have.” Icing cookies was voted by many children as the best activity of the day!!



“SeeSaw helped to take your mind off it and helped you make friends with the same problem you have.”

It is with thanks to our generous supporters that we've been able to run these new activities, while still making sure we can respond quickly to families when they need us.

Rosie x



An image taken by one of the young people on the photography workshop “A broken heart”

Fundraising Ideas for 2010

I know that sometimes people like to do something a little out of the ordinary to raise money for SeeSaw, and it can be difficult to know where to start. Here are a couple of different fundraising ideas that caught my eye.

Please let me know what you are up to and send some photos. It is always good to include these in the newsletter when possible—and most importantly have fun raising money for this wonderful little charity.

Jane Elliott—Fundraising Coordinator



Event Aid UK is a fantastic Oxfordshire business that is dedicated to organising amazing challenge events for individuals who want to do something a bit different and raise money for good causes. This could be the **National 3 Peaks Challenge** where participants walk up Britain's 3 highest mountains back to back all in 24 hours! Or how about taking part in an International Marathon such as the **Rome Marathon**? Event Aid will organise transport, accommodation, professional guides and a training programme to prepare you for the challenge. Take a look at the Event Aid calendar to see what you could take part in next year for SeeSaw:
<http://eventaiduk.org/event-calendar/>

Generous helpings - a great new fundraising idea



We're always on the lookout for imaginative new fundraising ideas - and here's one that we've been very quick to take up.

It's called Dinner4Good and allows you to raise money for us simply by doing something you enjoy - having friends round for dinner! To see how it works just go to www.dinner4good.com/SeeSaw

From here you can create and send personalised email invitations – takes less than 5 minutes. Your guests can then accept and donate online, so there's no awkwardness over asking for money or hassle of collecting cash. You can all see who's coming and how much is being raised – in a click. Dinner4Good takes care of everything, including claiming the Gift Aid which reduces the admin for us! All you have to do is hold the dinner, eat, drink and enjoy yourselves!

IMPORTANT DATES 2010



← **24th April—at Millets Farm, Frilford Heath**
For tickets and information go to: www.elegantball.com

9th May—Bluebell Sponsored Walk, Cornbury Park →

For information and sponsor forms about this popular event please contact Jane



← **29th May—Rare Plants Sale, Kingston Bagpuize House**

For more info go to: <http://www.kingstonbagpuizehouse.btinternet.co.uk/>



18th July —10th Birthday Party, Kingston Bagpuize House 2—5 p.m.

All our supporters invited—please join us!

If you would like to help or can support this special event then please contact Jane



In this special birthday edition we are sorry that there isn't space to say **THANK YOU** to everyone personally for all you do for SeeSaw. We are looking forward to celebrating our 10th birthday year and hope that you will enjoy sharing it with us.

For all latest news and information about forthcoming events news go to www.seesaw.org.uk/events or contact Jane Elliott, Fundraising Coordinator at fundraiser@seesaw.org.uk or 01865 744768