



SeeSaw Newsletter

January 2011

Grief support for the young in Oxfordshire

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Special points of interest:

- * Hear about some changes and new faces at SeeSaw
- * How volunteering for SeeSaw can make a huge difference
- * What do we spend the money we raise on? A fact sheet explains
- * What our fabulous fundraisers have been up to recently
- * News from our Side by Side Programme—stories to inspire you
- * Dates for your diary—keep an eye on our website for more info.

Did you know ...

- * That 1 in 29 young people will be bereaved (parent or sibling) by the time they reach 18 years old?
- * That over a third of local authorities in England lack a specialist childhood bereavement service where families can directly access the help they need?

Warm welcome from SeeSaw

A very warm welcome to our latest newsletter and Happy New Year from everyone at SeeSaw. With SeeSaw's wonderful 10th anniversary year behind us, we are now enthusiastically looking forward to the next 10 years and beyond.

We're often asked who funds the work we do, especially as finances have got tighter for everyone. So we've included a fact sheet with this newsletter to show you the different sources of our income. It highlights that we really do need, each and every year, a sizeable sum from the people, organizations and companies of Oxfordshire, and that thanks to our supporters, we had another successful year of fundraising.

We also wanted to show you just how we spend the hard-raised funds. The Trustees and I scrutinize every penny that we spend, to make sure it is absolutely essential to providing a first-class service to Oxfordshire bereaved families. Our committed and experienced staff team, who provide the first-line response alongside trained volunteers, is our greatest strength and where we spend the majority of our funds. So, all donations go towards providing this valuable time, when grieving families need it most.

Who's New at SeeSaw

The most recent of our 11 Trustees is Glynis Phillips. Her knowledge of NHS management means the range of expertise across our Trustees is truly inspirational!

We've also welcomed a part-time book-keeper, Jackie McDowell, to the office. Her quiet efficiency frees up more time for our "first-voice" administrator, Dianne to answer the ever increasing number of calls to SeeSaw in the calm, friendly way so appreciated by families and professionals alike.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! In an exciting development, Christine Young has just joined the team, as an Associate Director. Working 2½ days a week, she will bring many years of experience in bereavement to help lead the team, as I will be working 3 days. We hope that you might meet her at some of the events you can read about on page 4.

Rosie Nicol-Harper—Director

All hands on deck!

We have an action packed few months ahead—which is great news. Many pairs of hands are needed to help at some of our events so if you can spare a few hours occasionally then we'd love to hear from you. You could be selling raffle tickets; shaking a collecting tin; face painting; baking cakes; running a SeeSaw information stall or helping with mailings.

SeeSaw's fundraising volunteers are hugely valued members of the team here—

frankly we couldn't do without them giving their time so generously.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and get to know us better. Though you will not be paid for your time we will reimburse your travel expenses. If you are interested to find out more then please contact me to arrange to come in for a chat. You will be made very welcome and there are usually biscuits on offer (if Do Good the SeeSaw dog hasn't eaten them all ...)

Please make 2011 the year you lend us a hand!

Many thanks.

Jane Elliott
Fundraising Co-ordinator



Cheerful fundraising volunteers running a SeeSaw stall

Fundraising News

Once again we have had **FANTASTIC** support from local businesses, individuals and community organisations recently and we extend a **HUGE THANKS** to everyone for all their support and generosity. We love to hear about your fundraising stories and please don't forget to send some pictures. Keep informed of our events by checking our website www.seesaw.org.uk/events

Masked Ball raises the roof!

A stunning Masked Halloween Ball at the **Tythe Barn, Bicester** raised £2000 for both SeeSaw and Helen and Douglas House Hospice. Organised by **Karen & Nick Orme** of Bicester based Graphic Design Agency, **Orme Creative**, the ball was attended by 156 people from local businesses and the community. Karen Orme said *'We thoroughly enjoyed organising the event and are very pleased we were able to raise so much money. A BIG thank you to **Oxford United** for donating a signed shirt, which went to Chris Weedon, a huge Oxford United fan'*.



SeeSaw Super Stars

Simon and Katy Taylor have been busy fundraising for SeeSaw recently. Simon, the Managing Director of **Mil-Tek Direct**, challenged Kristian Scannerap, CEO of **Mil-Tek Denmark** to a 60m sprint. Simon valiantly won the race and donated his winning prize of **£1000** to SeeSaw. Simon is also taking part in our sponsored abseil on 22nd May off the Women's Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Katy sold Christmas cards and toys at coffee mornings and school Xmas fetes raising **£441**. **Thank you Simon and Katy**



Festive funds from the Tythe Barn

Despite the snow on Sunday 19th December locals packed into the Tythe Barn at Launton for a wonderfully festive family Christmas Carol Service. The raffle, with some fabulous prizes, raised £1400 for SeeSaw.

Thank you to Oxfordshire's churches

We have been moved by the support we have received in the 6 months from 1st July to 31st December 2010 from churches throughout Oxfordshire. In all donations totalled **£3486.88**. Also, we are most grateful to **Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford** for donating gifts of art materials for us to use when working with children.

Do you belong to a church or community group that would like to hear more about the work that we do supporting bereaved children? Please contact me and I will be very happy to arrange this.

Jane Elliott
Fundraising Co-ordinator

A Pumpkin Night to remember in Cumnor

The Pumpkin Night at the Bear and Ragged Staff, Cumnor raised £1000 for SeeSaw. A most enjoyable evening involving the whole community, with magicians, dancing, fire juggler and a spectacular fireworks display by **A40 Fireworks**. **Thank you very much!**

The Athena Network—Supporting SeeSaw

The Athena Network is a networking group for women running their own businesses. Jane recently joined Athena to help us to forge new links with local businesses, and has met some inspirational ladies.

The **Athena Network in South Oxfordshire** raised **£500** for SeeSaw at their Christmas lunch at Fallowfields Hotel on 8th December and have adopted SeeSaw as their charity to support over the next year. **Thank you** www.theathenanetwork.com



Marathon runners 2010

Becky Blandford and Patrick Hook ran the Dublin Marathon in aid of SeeSaw and raised an amazing **£984.36**. They enjoyed a well deserved pint of Guinness afterwards! **Well done!**

Marc Rowland ran the Ankor Wat, Cambodia Half Marathon raising **£695**. He said *'Cambodia is a wonderful place—but still scarred by its terrible recent past. If a nation needed grief support it would be Cambodia. That is why I felt that fundraising for SeeSaw was so appropriate'*. You can read Marc's 'Postcard from Cambodia' on our website at www.seesaw.org.uk/events

The **Abingdon Marathon** donated **£2000** following the 2010 race. Huge thanks to **Gary Richards, Race Director** for his continued support, and to fundraising volunteers: Paula Humphreys (of John Mason School), Harvey and Ruth Batten, Will Elliott, Jackie McDowell and Sally Luther for manning water stations. **Contact Jane if you'd like to man a water station at this year's race.**

Events Diary for Spring 2011

We have some fun and interesting fundraising events coming up over the next few months. We hope that there will be something here for everyone. Please see our website at www.seesaw.org.uk for updates and further details

February

10th—New Season's Colours talk by Farrow and Ball at Kingston Bagpuize House. Tickets are £20 each in advance only from Mrs Ginny Grant 01865 820259.

April

2nd—SeeSaw Spring Dinner At St Hugh's College Oxford.

Fabulous 3 course dinner with wine and drinks reception. Charity auction and raffle. Tickets £85 each are available from seesawdinner2011@gmail.com

16th—Concert at the Sheldonian Theatre. Bach—St Matthew Passion, BWV 244. Oxford Bach Choir. Conductor: Marios Papadopoulos. Details and tickets can be found at http://oxfordphil.com/4/Concerts?page_no=2. **We need 4 volunteers to man buckets for the retiring collection at the end of the performance (around 10.00 p.m.)**

May

8th—Wallingford Car Rally and Parade. This lovely family fun event in aid of SeeSaw will be opened by **Geraldine Peers**. Opportunity to ride in a car of your dreams (subject to availability) More details at: www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk/welcome.htm **We need many volunteers to sell raffle tickets, man collecting buckets, do face painting, bake cakes etc.**

14th and 15th—The Rally Show, Cornbury Park. Two day event for motorsport enthusiasts and supporting SeeSaw. Details can be found at: <http://www.therallyshow.org/> **We need many volunteers to sell raffle tickets and man collecting buckets over the two days.**

15th—Dragon Boat Racing—The Thames, Abingdon
To find out about entering a team please go to: www.abingdon-rotary.org.uk/AbingdonDragonBoats/event.asp

22nd—Sponsored Abseil at the John Radcliffe Hospital —
Sorry, we are fully subscribed for this event. **We need 6 volunteers to help during the afternoon.**

29th—Rare Plants Fair at Kingston Bagpuize House from 10.30 a.m. An opportunity to purchase some interesting and unusual plants for your garden and to see the new rose garden at Kingston Bagpuize House. For more details go to: www.kingstonbagpuizehouse.com

If you can help at any of these events then please get in touch. Thank you very much!



Grateful thanks to Colourful Coffins for kindly sponsoring this issue of the SeeSaw Newsletter
<http://www.colourfulcoffins.com>
01865 779172

To make a one off donation to SeeSaw please complete the form below and return it with your cheque to **SeeSaw, Bush House, 2 Merewood Avenue, Oxford OX3 8EF**

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Surname: _____

Address: _____

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I would like to make a one-off gift of:

£10 £25 £50 Other £.....

Gift Aid it

To make your donation worth an extra 25% at no extra cost to you please tick the Gift Aid box. You must be a UK taxpayer paying an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim.

STANDING ORDER FORM

Regular donations enable us to plan our future with certainty. To make a regular donation please complete the standing order form below and **return it to SeeSaw, Bush House, 2 Merewood Avenue, Oxford OX3 8EF**

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other

First Name: _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Your Bank details:

Branch name: _____

Account No: _____

Sort code: ___ - ___ - ___

Here is my commitment to help **SeeSaw** by monthly standing order, starting on ___ / ___ / ___ and every month thereafter until further notice

Please pay **SeeSaw**

£2.00 £5.00 £10.00 Other £

Signed: _____

Gift Aid it

To make your donation worth an extra 25% at no extra cost to you please tick the Gift Aid box. You must be a UK taxpayer paying an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim.

Thank you very much!