



RIVERSIDE ACTIVE LIVES NETWORK

Promoting independence for people with physical and sensory disabilities

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SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

As our summer break is once again nearly upon us, it is time to catch up and reflect on where we have been, what we have done, future plans but most importantly, what we have achieved as an organisation over recent months.

Firstly, let's look at what's new around here! Well to start with we now have 3 wheelchair accessible minibuses, which is great for days out but also for shortening your journey times to and from the centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. All 3 minibuses are owned by us outright with funding coming from grants that we have successfully applied for.

Secondly, we also managed to secure funding to purchase 8 new laptops and associated equipment, including a printer and photocopier, all of which is available for anyone's use whilst they are at the centre.

We have a huge polytunnel in the garden, where we can now bring on our own seeds and plants which we can sell to raise funds for our outings etc. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will exercise your green fingers and get involved !

Daron's music club "The Riverside Rockers" on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon has come on leaps and bounds. We have now purchased our own instruments and about to hit the road for our first gig. Keep watching this space !

Our first holiday to Netley last October was a great success and I will once again be seeking funding to try and repeat this. Unfortunately, we are only able to dip into the funding pot once a year and I am hoping that when I ask the question again in September they will be kind to us. As most of you are aware these holidays are heavily subsidised and we are totally reliant on funding to make them happen. With this in mind, Steve Pearce suggested that we might start up a monthly savings club so that we will be able to contribute more towards the cost of the holiday and not be so reliant on grant funding. Maybe this is something we can talk about over the coming weeks and any ideas that you might have, would be most welcome.

Our outings continue to be enjoyed by all (I hope!) so please keep the ideas coming in for new exciting places to visit. After our group day out to Brighton, I have given some careful thought as to how and whether we continue to do these. I am wondering whether it would be much easier if we just did smaller minibus days out in the future, but more of them. The M25 is also best to steer clear of, so should we just concentrate on the Kent Coast (Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Whitstable etc) where there is less chance of us being stuck in traffic? Your input through Vanessa and Sharon, would be much appreciated on this subject also.

I need to bring your attention to contacting staff members outside of working hours, which is something that appears to have been on the increase in recent months. Could I please remind you that staff only work for us here at The Riverside on a Tuesday and Wednesday and as such should not be contacted at any other times. If you need to speak to someone with regard to a transport related issue, please leave a message for Vanessa on 07989 627538. Vanessa will pick up any messages on a Monday and will respond as necessary. I am sorry to have to remind you of this but there have been instances of staff being contacted even on Sunday evenings, which is obviously not fair. Your understanding in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Finally ,as we look forward to our summer break I just wanted to remind you that the centre will be closed on the following days:-

TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST
WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST
TUESDAY 9TH AUGUST
WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST

At Christmas the centre will be closed on the following days:-

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER
TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 28TH DECEMBER

The brilliant news for everyone is that due to the fact our staffing levels have increased over the past 12 months, we will NOT now be closing at Easter or in the Summer next year, so you will have uninterrupted access to the best day centre in the country!

Thank you all again for your continued support. This is your day centre and you should be rightly proud of what you have achieved!

Have a great break and see you all again on Tuesday August 16th.

Vanessa, Carol L., Gary, Daron, Dave, Chong, Carol Yeh, Mike, Kristina, Denese, Gloria, Gareth & Vince