

Helping hands

enabling us to make a difference



Issue . 1

February 2010

2010 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM

14th May (11am)

THOMLEY OPEN DAY

7th August (11am-3pm)

All welcome

rsvp

claire@thomleyhall.org

VISITING THOMLEY

We welcome donor visits to Thomley at any time.

The best time to visit is on Saturdays and during school holidays when you can talk to children and their families.

Just get in touch and let us know when you would like to come along.



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Worminghall
Bucks, HP18 9JZ
01844 338 380

fundraising@thomleyhall.org
www.thomleyhall.org

Thomley Patrons

Ken Bruce and Jeremy Irons

Thomley Sports Ambassador

Bryan Steel

Registered Charity
No. 1089224

Thomley Activity Centre update 2010

A recreational facility for disabled children, their families, friends and schools

Try as it might, this winter's weather has not dampened our energies to increase Thomley's capacity to support disabled children, their families and friends.

Additional spaces for children - Visitors to Thomley travel from 16 different counties, yet due to Thomley's maximum capacity of 60 children at any one time, approximately 10 children per day had to be placed on Thomley's 'waiting list' during school holidays. This year, Thomley will open for an additional 7 days, offering 420 more spaces during school holidays. One additional day open during the recent half term effectively eliminated the 'waiting list', enabling 357 children to visit in just 6 days.



Additional staff to support increasing numbers of children - Thomley recently recruited a new male Playworker whose focus will be to enable children of all abilities to enjoy inclusive sports and outdoor activities. Thomley further boosted its playwork team by recruiting additional holiday Playworkers to safely supervise activities. Thomley's new part-time Caretaker will also maintain Thomley's beautiful and spacious 7 acre premises.

This is the very first issue of Thomley's 'Helping Hands' newsletter which will be sent to you 3 times per year.

We hope it will keep you up to date with Thomley's achievements which would not be possible without your support, thank you.

We also hope it will highlight our priority funding needs, show you how others have supported us and inspire you to do the same.

If you would rather receive this newsletter by email, post, or not at all, please let us know via email - fundraising@thomleyhall.org

Regular support - every penny counts

Regular support gives us the security of long-term funding, enabling us to plan ahead and carry out our work in the most effective way possible.

We kindly appeal to donors to make an **'unrestricted'** donation, giving us the choice to use funds where they are most urgently needed.

If you would like your donation to be used for a specific children's activity, please see overleaf for our 'focus project' or our 'priority projects' in the 'Support us' section of our website.

You can make a regular donation by:

- Setting up a **standing order** (form enclosed)
- Paying online via *Justgiving* or by BACS
- Writing a cheque to 'Thomley Activity Centre'

Spreading the message and widening our network of support

Last year Edd Nieburg and Ben Halliwell completed their staggering challenge of 12 marathons in 13 days, raising over £11K for Thomley.

Edd has now inspired his old school to follow in his footsteps. Next month, the entire junior school of Cokethorpe will be doing a sponsored walk around their grounds in aid of both Thomley and the Footsteps Foundation.

Luckily for us, the links to Thomley are twofold. A teacher of Cokethorpe also heard about the value

of Thomley through her husband who is the Headmaster of Chilworth House, a school which regularly enjoys visits to Thomley.

This just goes to show that, by spreading the Thomley message, you too could help us reach new networks of valuable supporters.

If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting us in any way, please get in contact with either Claire or Ruth... see the next page for contact details of the fundraising team.

Focus project - sports and outdoor activities



If you haven't yet seen our short film, shown on 'The One Show' on BBC Children in Need night back in November you can still catch it on... www.bbc.co.uk/theoneshow/backstage/children_in_need/



Ken Bruce (Patron of Thomley) with Claire Acworth (Director) & representatives from the Community Chest Grants Panel.

CONTACTING THE THOMLEY FUNDRAISING TEAM

Claire Acworth

(Director)

claire@thomleyhall.org

Trusts & foundations

Statutory bodies

Major individual donors

Ruth Dickson

(Fundraising Officer)

ruth@thomleyhall.org

Individuals

Schools

Companies

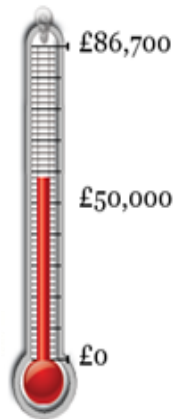
Service clubs

Groups & networks

Other community events

Legacies

One of Thomley's focuses this year is to promote **active and healthy lifestyles amongst children**. Physical play is an essential part of every child's development, contributing to their health and well-being. Sports and outdoor activities enable children to develop physical strength, fitness, coordination, confidence, social skills, independence and team spirit. Just as their non-disabled peers, disabled children need an outlet for their energy so to expend stress and anxiety and to maintain healthy sleep patterns.



Thomley's fully accessible outdoor equipment is suitable for all ages and abilities and includes swings, a roundabout, assault course, zip wire, 1km cycle track and an imminent new sandpit.

Inclusive sports and outdoor activities will be facilitated by Thomley's new Playworker. Using his football coaching experience, he will encourage all children to be active and get involved. Read more about Thomley's sports and outdoor activities on <http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/support-us/priority-projects/>

Can you help us reach our target of £86,700 to run these activities? **Every £15 you give will enable another child to enjoy sports and outdoor activities** by covering the costs of playwork staff, maintenance of the cycle track and playground equipment, rent and upkeep of the field.

Support from a local District Council

In November, Thomley was the recipient of the 200th Aylesbury Vale Community Chest grant. The £16,000 grant will help cover essential running costs to support 243 Thomley children living within the Aylesbury Vale District Council catchment area.

Councillor Kevin McPartland,

Chairman of the Community Chest Grants Panel, said: "We are extremely pleased that the Community Chest grant scheme has helped make significant improvements to the lives of our local communities. Apart from being the 200th grant recipient, the Thomley Activity Centre is in a class of one providing such a wonderful safe

place for children to play and express themselves. I am very impressed by the staff and volunteers at the centre, who are an incredibly hard working and dedicated team."

You can read the full story on the AVDC website: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/news/2009/nov

Thomley stars - the heart of community fundraising

We would like to recognise the generous support given by schools, sports clubs, local groups and individuals. These people are at the heart of our community fundraising initiatives and we hope that their creative fundraising ideas will inspire others...

Staff at **Bardwell School** chose to support Thomley rather than send Christmas cards; Year 11 at **Princes Risborough School** held a cake sale following a disability awareness day at Thomley; **Cross Keys Pub** in Thame held a raffle for Thomley at the opening of their micro-brewery; **Haddenham Ponderosa Linedancers** raised funds through a wide variety of events throughout the year; **Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell** made a donation at one of their weekly meetings; Local company **Elsevier** gave a donation to support our outdoor activities; **Thame & District Roundtable** continued their support of Thomley with a Christmas collection and proceeds from a Duck race!; A **Thomley Grandparent** raised money doing family history research projects in exchange for donations to Thomley; The **Red Lion Social Club** in Ashendon organised a supper in aid of Thomley; A harvest supper and carol service were held by **Towersey Parochial Church Council** in aid of Thomley.

If you are taking part in a sporting or challenge event and have yet to nominate your charity, why not choose us? Become a Thomley star and we will support you every step of the way with a fundraising pack, tips and ideas and sponsorship forms. Contact Ruth on ruth@thomleyhall.org