

# helping hands

enabling us to make a difference



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### HELPING HANDS - donor evening

4th November 2010

6:30 - 8:30pm

### THOMLEY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

13th November 2010

*See our website for more events ...*

## 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.*



Menmarsh Road  
Worminghall  
Bucks, HP18 9JZ  
01844 338 380

fundraising@thomleyhall.org  
[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org)

Thomley Patrons  
Ken Bruce  
Jeremy Irons

Thomley Sports Ambassador  
Bryan Steel

Registered Charity  
No. 1089224

Issue . 2

Autumn 2010

## Thomley Activity Centre - summary of the year's events.

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

Thomley Activity Centre has just celebrated the success of its 8th year of operation. With the arrival of Adam, a new specialised Playworker, the year has focused on widening the variety of sports and outdoor healthy living activities. The summer 'alphabet' theme offered children of all abilities an A-Z range of indoor and outdoor activities. Summer culminated in the official opening a huge new all weather sandpit by Marie-Jane Barnett the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

This year, Thomley received 5,745 visits by children from 20 different counties. This huge catchment area merely demonstrates the severe lack of facilities for disabled children within the region and, as part of its ethos, Thomley has proactively shared its understanding and experience of accessible and inclusive activities for disabled children, with organisations nationwide.

The coming year will focus on increasing support to Thomley's teenage visitors (*see Teenage Provision*) and to schools. In order to increase Thomley's capacity for imminent future growth, Thomley has recruited a Caretaker, Fundraising Officer and a HR/Health & Safety Coordinator.



### Regular support - every penny counts

Regular support gives Thomley 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 our 'focus project' in this newsletter or our 'priority projects' in the 'support us' section of our website.

### You can make a regular donation by:

Setting up a **standing order**, paying online via *Justgiving* or BACS, writing a cheque to 'Thomley Hall Centre'

*See our website for details or give us a call - we are really grateful for your help.*

### Support Thomley and you could really be the start of something...

This year we were chosen as the main beneficiary from the *High Wycombe Gang Show*. A collection for Thomley was made at the end of each of the cabaret shows. The final musical number featured all members of the cast wearing hand-printed t-shirts, made by children here at Thomley. A slide show featuring photos of the children making the t-shirts ran during the song, giving the audience a lovely visual link back to Thomley.

In addition to the generous donations from the shows, HSBC offered to match the total audience donation. The bank have since gone on to support Thomley in other ways, both with a successful fundraising event and with hands on help from members of staff during our recent maintenance week.

People who have organised fundraising events for Thomley have often been the catalyst to offers of all sorts of other support. This not only brings in much needed funding but spreads awareness of Thomley and helps us to reach other supporters.



*So, please help spread the word. If you are interested in supporting us, or know someone that might be, please get in touch.*

## Focus project - Thomley's new teenage provision

Funded by Aiming High for Disabled Children programmes in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, South Oxfordshire District Council and Santander Foundation, Thomley will launch a large refurbishment programme of an unused Manor Hall building for use by disabled teenagers, thus extending Thomley's upper age bracket from 16 up to 19yrs. The additional space created will also enable Thomley to increase the available spaces for visitors from 60 to 75 each day.

Beginning work in October, Thomley plans to create a teenage den and games room, a hobbies room, a mini gym and a kitchen. Within this building there will also be a new hoist accessible toilet and changing area as well as a new reception area. These facilities will enhance the social, early vocational, healthy living and life skills of disabled teenagers. The activities offered in each of these areas will be designed to complement the school curriculum as well as to respond to visitor requests for activities appropriate to disabled teenagers.

In order to finish this work by mid-summer 2011, Thomley welcomes contributions towards a £36,000 shortfall in funding.



Aiming High



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



South Oxfordshire  
District Council  
Listening Learning Leading



Santander

*Below are just a few ways that the money you donate can make a real difference to Thomley and all the children we support...*

**£20** could allow 5 children to use our **sensory room** which provides a stimulating and therapeutic atmosphere and can help to stimulate, develop or balance their sensory systems.

**£50** could fund a **playworker for a day** to encourage children to participate in active play which promotes social interaction and helps to build their self-confidence.

**£100** could fund the replacement and purchase of our **sports equipment**. Physical play is an essential part of every child's development but due to physical or attitudinal barriers, accessible playgrounds like Thomley are few and far between.

**£250** could fund a **creative workshop** at Thomley for a group of children, which can help to develop imagination, coordination and sensory awareness whatever their ability.

**£500** could fund a day of supervised **art and craft activities** for 50 children to enjoy. Art & craft is something that children of all abilities can join in and helps them to build confidence in their ideas and ability.



*The Manor Hall building at Thomley where the new teenage provision will be.*



*Cokethorpe School - sponsored walk for Thomley.*



*Anthony at the end of his cycle ride in aid of Thomley.*

### Get in touch...

Claire Acworth

(Director)

[claire@thomleyhall.org](mailto:claire@thomleyhall.org)

Trusts & foundations  
Statutory bodies  
Major donors

Ruth Dickson

(Fundraising Officer)

[ruth@thomleyhall.org](mailto:ruth@thomleyhall.org)

Individuals  
Schools  
Companies  
Community events  
Legacies

☎ 01844 338380

### Thomley Stars - the heart of our community fundraising

*We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us this year - we appreciate all your support. Below is just a small selection of the activities which have been done to raise money for Thomley - we hope the ideas will help to inspire you.*

Cokethorpe Junior School did a **sponsored walk** and walked a combined distance of 740km around school grounds raising a fantastic **£1500**; Anthony Livingstone **cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End** - he cycled a mammoth 115 miles a day and raised over **£1200**; George Anderson donated **£250** which was raised from people that signed up to his **Thame Boot Camp** this summer; HSBC staff donated **£320** from a **quiz night** they held & HSBC then matched their fundraising efforts raising another **£320**; Two Thomley parents held a **music event** to raise funds for Thomley - it sold out and they raised over **£2600**; Lord Williams School donated **£400** from the **raffle** at an event they held with Thomley's patron Ken Bruce; A group of children from Long Crendon Baptist Church raised **£580** from a **sponsored walk** in the church grounds; Claire Acworth (Thomley's Director) tackled a **half marathon** for Thomley and raised over **£1800**; Thomley continues to receive a great many generous donations and valuable support from local **Lions, Rotary & Roundtable** clubs.

*If you are taking part in a sporting or challenge event please think about supporting Thomley.*

*We will support you every step of the way with a fundraising pack, tips & ideas.*