



Thomley
A place for people of all abilities
and disabilities

Helping Hands

Issue 4. Spring 2016



A word from Warren

Hello & Greetings

Before I was appointed as Thomley's new CEO, I had heard and read a number of reports regarding how friendly and welcoming the centre was for all visitors. I experienced this myself since my arrival. I will do all I can to make sure that Thomley continues with this reputation and extend the service to all those who still don't know about us. I would like to thank everyone for the very warm and friendly welcome I have received.

One of my responsibilities will be to plan the next five years' of the centre's development. I will not be able to do this on my own, nor do I wish to. Over the next six months, I will be working and consulting with staff, visitors, trustees and other interested parties on how we think Thomley will develop. I welcome any ideas you may have to put into this process. I am aiming for an ambitious but pragmatic plan, focussed on building for success.

In order to achieve this we rely on a range of kind and generous donations from all our supporters. This includes anything from passing around a collection box to those sponsoring a large build project. Every penny counts! I would like to recognise and extend our grateful thanks to the following donors who have made significant contributions since my arrival:

- BBC Children in Need, who have granted another £96,000 over three years so that young people can continue to enjoy social opportunities, take part in activities, and learn skills to help them lead more independent lives.
- Rugby Group Benevolent Fund, who donated £50,000 for development of all services
- Quanta, who following the sponsorship to produce of our film last year, have now given a significant donation through their employee performance incentive scheme.

I look forward to sharing our ambitions and plans.



Chris Coates from Rugby Group Benevolent Fund (centre) with Warren Koehler, CEO and Claire Acworth, Trusts & Foundations Manager

Café building and next steps

Guess what? The build is happening! After all the talking, planning and more, we will soon be putting shovels and diggers in the ground.

There will be some disruption due to this build, but it will not stop us from doing what we usually do. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for our occupation sometime around October 2016. We will soon be able to confirm the exact date.

Now that we know we have a building...what's next, other than having a much-needed space for families to eat and socialise together? We are looking at a number of models and options for the use of the café building. Once we have some more shape to this, we will seek views from all our stakeholders.



Left: Our Senior Playworker Amy demonstrating how to blend smoothies
Right: Gemma puts together a cake mixture

Will Power

Gifts left to charity when supporters pass away are very special. They are often the largest donation people are capable of making to their favourite cause, but all legacy gifts are valuable to charities, whatever their size. And learning that someone has pledged to leave a legacy in their Will aids long-term planning, with the knowledge that financial support will be there one day in the future.

When you come to write or amend your Will it is only right that your loved ones come first. But is there room for a small gift to Thomley too? A bequest will cost you nothing now, but could make a lasting difference to disabled people and their families for generations to come.

...and the Oscar goes to...

Whether you fancy walking the red carpet, competing at the Olympic Park, or improving your golf handicap, there's a way to do it for Thomley.

The Oscars Fundraising Ball

Sunday 29th May, The Oxford Belfry Hotel

Drink on arrival, three-course meal, disco, auction and raffle. Tickets £50. Email: joe@thomley.org.uk

Charity Golf Day

Thursday 25th August, Radley College

Zemsports are bringing you another exclusive golf day in the stunning grounds of Radley College. To register your interest, email: mark@zemsports.com

Parallel London

Sunday 4th September, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The world's first fully accessible and inclusive mass participation, sponsored run for people of all abilities. To reserve your place, email: joe@thomley.org.uk

Farewell to Harriet

This month we said a fond farewell to Harriet, our Fundraising and Marketing Manager. After four happy and busy years with the charity, Harriet is moving on to a new challenge with another charity. We will miss her and we wish her all the best in her new role.

'It's been a privilege and a joy to work for Thomley. I'm proud of all the charity has achieved and have been humbled by the commitment and generosity of Thomley's supporters. I am already looking forward to coming back for a coffee in the shiny new Café!'



In future, if you have an idea or enquiry about fundraising or PR, please call:

01844 338380 ext. 119

Or email:

fundraising@thomley.org.uk

We would love to hear from you!

Stay in touch:

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