



**Thomley**

A place for people of all  
abilities and disabilities

# The difference you make

Annual Review 2018







## About us

Thomley was initially set up to deliver play, recreational and leisure opportunities for autistic children in 1997, becoming a charity in 2001.

Since the original idea, Thomley has constantly evolved to become a place for disabled people of all ages and impairments. Our overriding aim is to provide a lifelong service for disabled people from birth to pension age. Each year we are getting closer to achieving this vision.

## Our charitable objects

- Provide facilities and support services for disabled people of any age and impairment with the object of improving their conditions of life;
- Protect the health of those caring for people with physical, learning or sensory impairments through advice and short break support; and
- Develop awareness and understanding of disability amongst non-disabled peers and the wider community.







## What we do

Disabled people don't have the same opportunities as their non-disabled peers to engage in activities that help them develop life skills. They miss essential experiences their non-disabled peers take for granted. Thomley has the skills, experience and expertise to provide a wide range of physical and creative activities/workshops to address this imbalance. Each day is structured around specific groups and themes, where we offer specialised programmes for pre-school children, teenagers, adults, families, schools, respite groups and the wider community.

## A year in review

Our service team continued to deliver a great programme of activities throughout the year. This resulted in 11,833 visits to Thomley, up 24% from last year. This was achieved in a very challenging and uncertain environment. We are all very proud of this outcome.

We welcomed a new Community Fundraiser into the team this year. She is planning a number of events and activities throughout 2019 building on the work she did during 2018.

Here is a brief comment about the year:  
“There have been so many improvements over the last year; staff are more motivated, there's more activities and workshops, it just needs to continue that way.”

That will be our focus for 2019!

**Warren Koehler,**  
**Chief Executive Officer**





# Cooking Club

## Mark's Story

For over a year now Mark has been attending Thomley's Adult Cooking Club.

He is 35 years old, with a diagnosis of classic autism, has good verbal skills, which mask his lack of social understanding and is emotionally very immature. He is physically able, although he has some problems with fine motor skill coordination.

Mark joined the cooking club not only as a way to improve his cooking skills, but also to practise social interaction and build up his low self-esteem, especially with other young adults in an environment that is familiar to him. Somewhere he feels safe and supported.

Thomley is a familiar place for him and he has built good relationships with many of the staff, who always treat him with compassion and respect.





He was initially reluctant to take instruction from staff, he didn't want to touch the ingredients or help prepare the food, but gradually, due to the immense patience, understanding and gentle encouragement by staff, he has continued to become more confident in his abilities and has gained many new skills.

He is now able to chop and peel a variety of foods, he's learnt about safety around cooking and food hygiene, how to use equipment, and will now offer to help with setting tables and clearing away afterwards. Most importantly, he is learning to take turns and work as part of a team with the other young adults. This is real progress for someone with Marks limitations.

Initially, Mark was only willing to chat with the Thomley staff or sometimes the other carers, but over time, he has formed some real friendships with the other young adults, which has been invaluable to his social development.

Mark continues to improve in confidence and gets great enjoyment and a sense of achievement from being at Thomley on adult days and in particular the cooking club.

Dianne  
Mark's support assistant.







## First time at Thomley: Isabella's story

Isabella (4) was recently diagnosed autistic as well as dyspraxic. In short, planned days out were always unsuccessful, energy draining, and emotional - despite best efforts there was little enjoyment. As a family we became quite reclusive, unaware of a suitable setting that we could take Isabella.

Our first visit to Thomley is now an everlasting memory. It was the first time Isabella could cope with a full day. Initially we were greeted by Tom, who kindly showed us around and settled us into the sensory room. Incredible - the setting could not have been more perfect. Tom also explained the arts and craft activities and food prep that was scheduled.

The cafe is great. We could sit down together as a family and eat without the concern of 'the child acting up'. The setting was great with toys for distraction and yummy bacon sandwiches. It was nice to see you can bring your own food and still use the cafe area. The most chilled family lunch we have had! Soft play is great as is the outdoor facilities, bike and go kart equipment.

All staff are supportive and help, offer advice, and have a genuine aim to make the child's day a positive and memorable one.

I do believe that Thomley has also helped with Isabella's mental and social wellbeing. Her confidence has grown and she really looks forward to every trip.

**Isabella's mum**

# Ways to support Thomley

Your support makes our work with people of all abilities and disabilities possible. It costs £500,000 a year to run Thomley of which we need to raise £250,000. Here's how you can get involved or visit:

[www.thomley.org.uk/fundraise](http://www.thomley.org.uk/fundraise)

## Make a donation

Any donation is invaluable to us big or small, it will enable us to continue to provide our service and support disabled children, young people, adults and their families. You can support Thomley with a one off donation or set up a monthly online donation at: [www.thomley.org.uk](http://www.thomley.org.uk)

## Take part

From skydiving to running a marathon, there are lots of ways to fundraise for us. Thomley have places in a variety of challenge events throughout the year, get in touch with the fundraising team if you would like to see what we are getting up to.

## Volunteer

There are a variety of ways you can volunteer for Thomley, from helping with maintenance around the site to helping at events we are always grateful for any help we can get. Contact our fundraising team if you can become a volunteer.

## Organise

You could always organise your own fundraiser, from a raffle, cake sale or pub quiz there are lots of fun ways to make a huge difference.





# Community support

If you are part of a community group, club, church why not get them involved in supporting us.

# Partner with us

From raising money, choosing us as 'Charity of the Year' to raising awareness, your business or employer can help us to support disabled children, young people, adults and their families.

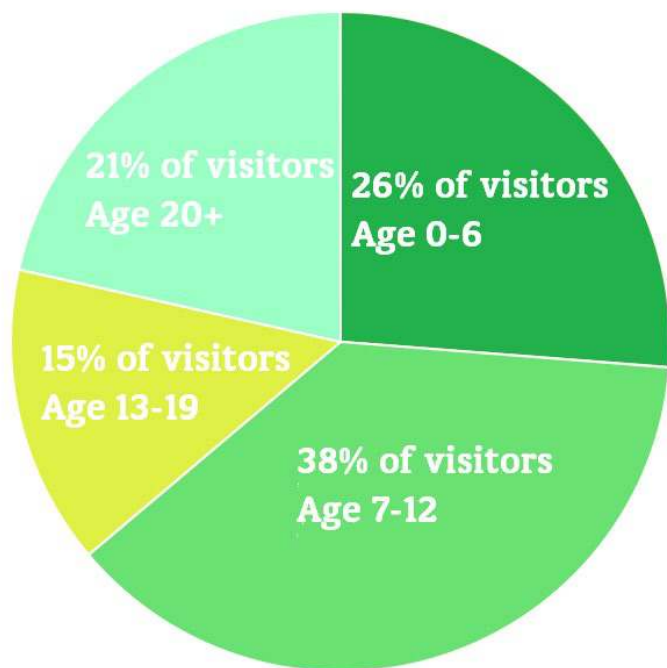
# Gift in your will

No matter how big or small, by leaving a gift in your will you will be supporting disabled children, young people and adults for generations to come. It's a wonderful way to remember a loved one while helping to support our work.





# A year in figures



## 24%

**Increase from 2017**

In 2018 we had 11,833 visits

## 60%

**Increase from 2 years ago**

In 2016 we had 7,396 visits

First disability roast dinner day



Opened 10 more than in 2017



First two nights of camping





# Financial Cost Summary

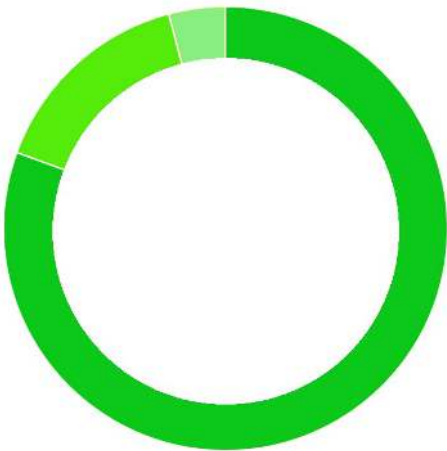
## Income

- Trusts and Foundations - £346,296
- Visitor Contributions - £77,838
- Statutory - £38,108
- Individuals and Gift Aid - £24,588
- Community & Corporate - £49,163
- Other Income - £51,956



## Expenditure

- Direct Services - £598,528
- Management & Admin - £113,757
- Capital Site Investment - £30,547



## Financial Summary

This year the charitable sector faced unprecedented challenges, especially around income generation. Thomley was affected by these challenges but was able to adapt and achieve a breakeven year whilst delivering a full service programme and welcome a record number of visits. We are very proud of this outcome given the circumstances we have come through. We see a similar picture for 2019 and believe we have the people, skills and systems in place to face this challenge.

Our most recent full accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website, under our charity number 1089224.

## Reserves Policy

Reserves held by the Charity are currently £140,000 (as of the 1st March 2018.) These are unrestricted funds and are held in accordance with The Charity Commission’s guidelines. These reserves enable the Charity to continue as a going concern and represent an average three months of expenditure. The current aim of the Trustees is to maintain our reserves at this level in order to retain our ability to continue to provide a wide range of exciting activities for our visitors. The Charity continues to actively fundraise from trusts, foundations, individuals, and the community, as well as from companies and businesses local to us.





## Thank you

**We would like to say thank you to the many individuals, of which there are too many to mention, who gave so generously to Thomley.**

## Statutory supporters

South Oxfordshire District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council

## Corporate and Community supporters

Detectival  
Aylesbury Town Bowls Club  
Thame and District Rotary Club  
The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire  
Jennings  
Kubota  
Lucy Electrics  
Thame Cars  
Department for Work & Pension  
Decision Resources Group  
Travelodge  
Enterprise Rent-a-Car

## Trusts and Foundations

Finnis Scott Foundation | May Trust  
Mobbs Memorial Trust | Alchemy  
Foundation | Theodore Roussel  
Memorial Trust | DLM Charitable Trust  
The Inman Charity | Roger Vere  
Foundation | St Jude's Trust | Big  
Lottery Fund | Aviva Community Fund  
Bartle Charitable Trust | BBC Children  
in Need | Beatrice Laing Trust | Heart  
of Bucks | Business and Third Sector  
Solutions | British Science Association  
Garfield Weston Foundation | Henry  
Sale Foundation | Leathersellers  
Lord Carrington Charitable Trust  
PE Lennard Charitable Will Trust  
PF Charitable Trust | Princes  
Charitable Trust | Rothschild  
Foundation | Rugby Benevolent Fund  
Santander Foundation | Sobell  
Foundation | St Michael's & All Saints'  
Charities | Syder Foundation  
Beeching Trust | 29th May 1962  
Charitable Trust | Dulverton Trust  
Shanly Foundation | Gerald  
Micklem Charitable Trust | Golden  
Bottle Hoare Trust | Grey Court Trust  
John & Ruth Howard Charitable Trust  
The Lynn Foundation | Percy Bilton  
Charity | Pharsalia Charitable Trust  
The Postcode Community  
Thomas Curtis Charitable Trust





**Patrons:** Ken Bruce and Paul Isaacs

**Company Directors/Trustees:**

Anna Fox (Chair), Andrew Lockhart, Maurice Pullen, Wendi Coles  
Recently joined: Eric Millard, Kate Jones, Linda Nwokobia, Paul Marbaix

**Main phone:** 01844 338380

**Finance:** 01844 397124

**Fundraising:** 01844 397123

**To book:** [bookings@thomley.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thomley.org.uk)

[www.thomley.org.uk](http://www.thomley.org.uk)



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