

Dates For Your Diary.

Christmas Card Selling
W/C 7th November for one week
Children's Hospital 10am-3pm
Volunteers needed even just an hour would help.

Banbury Christmas Bazaar
12th November 9.30am-3.30pm
Volunteers needed even just an hour would help.

Pantomime Oxford Playhouse
Mother Goose 7th Jan 2012 2pm
Refreshments afterwards at the Randolph Hotel.

Adolescent Weekend 2012
PGL Swindon
12th and 13th May

Summer 2011



O·S·C·A·R

OFFERING SUPPORT to CHILDREN AND RELATIVES

FOR CHILDREN WITH BRAIN OR SPINAL

Adolescent Weekend 2011

We spent the weekend at the Peartree Holiday Inn Hotel Oxford. The morning started with the anticipation of another adolescent weekend. Everyone was really looking forward to finding out what activities had been planned for us.

We were split into groups and we were then taken by coach to Abingdon. Our group's first activity was cooking. The activity took place at company called Miele. We had a lot of fun making banoffe cup cakes. Miele very kindly gave us all aprons, cake boxes and they provided the ingredients we needed.



Inside this issue.....

Forthcoming events
Friends of O.S.C.A.R

Visit our new website at <http://www.friendsofoscar.org.uk>

After making our cakes we were able to have a go at making a small herb garden. While making these we were able to smell and taste the herbs. We then went into the listening lounge with Bernie and Rachel to talk about the Children's Hospital. We were then taken by our drivers Roy and Keith to Creative Corner in Abingdon. We were able to do a number of activities including china painting and silk painting. This activity also gave us the opportunity to chat to each other before being taken back to collect our cakes and herbs and returning back to the hotel.



The evening meal did become quite messy as we had Chinese and some of us had a go at using chop sticks. We had profiteroles for pudding and a chocolate fountain.



After our dinner we all took part in a very good quiz. The quiz was hosted by Howie from the Really Wild Show. The quiz went to a tie break with the winner being the team that called themselves the Underachievers Anonymous

We started Sunday with a cooked breakfast to set us up for the day. We had received some funding from the Trumper family and we also applied to St James's Palace Partnership to pay for the main activity which was a YRWALL first seen on Dragon's Den. Everyone was asked to draw a design on a piece of paper.



Then using digital spray cans like graffiti they copied their designs onto a large digital screen using different colours, stencils, splats of paint as well many other techniques and ideas.

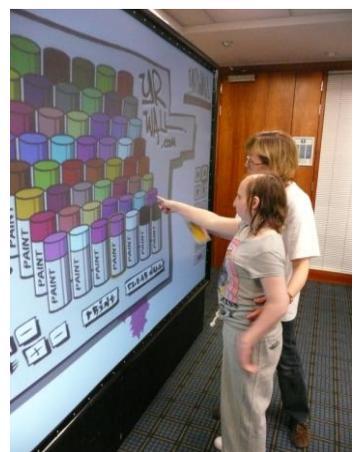
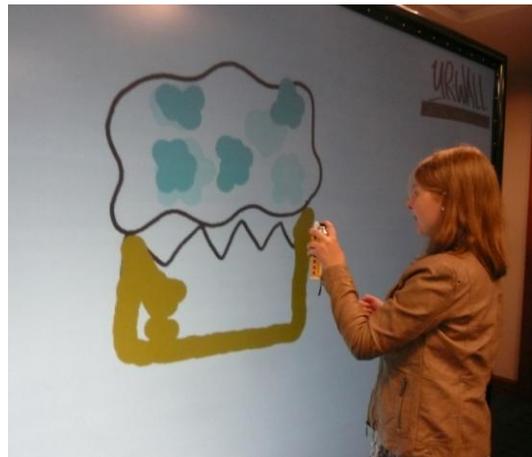
Lots of people changed their designs when they could see what they could achieve on the wall.

Unfortunately we only had a short period of time for each person as there was so many to get through. Once everyone was happy with the design they had produced they were printed onto T shirts for them to take home.

While people were waiting to do their printing they were able to take part in one of the various activities going on. These included swimming in the hotel pool, art and crafts, playing games and talking to a representative from Oxford Connexions.

It was soon time for lunch and we then had to gather together all the things we had made over the weekend.

We would like to thank Miele for the cooking experience and herb planting, Dawn and her team at Creative Corner and also the Trumper family and St James's Palace Partnership for helping to fund the YRWALL. Also thank you to Bernie and Rachel for facilitating the listening lounge and getting some important feedback. We all had a great time thanks to you all. Please return your feedback forms to us.



Christmas Card SALE

We have reduced the Christmas cards to £2.00 per pack including postage.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer please email the office on carolharrison@utdsl.com or phone 01235 816310.

Fund Raising

Although we are now trying to concentrate on raising money for Friends of O.S.C.A.R we still have some O.S.C.A.R merchandise left along with the Christmas Cards that we need to sell there is not room in the office to store two lots of merchandise so we won't be able to order Friends of O.S.C.A.R merchandise until we have sold the O.S.C.A.R merchandise.

If you know of an event in the area where you live and you would like to run a stall, we can provide the Gazebo, Banner, Leaflets, Merchandise, Stickers for Children and Shaky Tins!

If you are planning to do a sponsored event where an overnight stay is required please contact us to let us know what you are doing as we do have a Youth Hostel Association Group membership card.

Please contact Carol on 01235 816310 or email carolharrison@utdsl.com

Donations To O.S.C.A.R

A big thank you to Helen Dunwoody and friends who organised and took part in a Sponsored Walk in aid of O.S.C.A.R. The event took place on the 26th June which turned out to be one of the warmest days of the year. The day raised in the region of £900.00 plus gift aid and this money will go towards next year's adolescent weekend. Also thank you to the Robinson family who had a stall at the Tingwick Beer Festival on a very wet day in July and they raised £62.00 this was then match funded by Mr Robinson making a total of £124.00 plus gift aid. Thank you also goes to Iver Heath Brownies who held a bingo evening and raised £65.00. Congratulations to Karen Fake and thank you as she requested donations to O.S.C.A.R in lieu of birthday presents and raised £135.00 for O.S.C.A.R.

Useful Information

Free Entry To Cadburys World.

Cadburys world are offering one free child entry per paying adult. Up to three adults and three children per party until the 31st December 2011. Vouchers can be downloaded at www.visittheheart.com/offerlist.aspx. They do have to be validated by ringing 08448807667 and quoting "Come Rain or Shine"

DLA Applications

If you have made a successful Disability Living Allowance application in the past and have not kept a copy of the paperwork you can request a copy but they can take between two and four weeks.

Special Educational Needs.

A new edition of the Guide is available free from the Dept for Children, Schools and families. Call 08456022260.

The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card:

If you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or are registered blind. You can apply for the above card at www.ceacard.co.uk or ask for a form at your local cinema. There have been changes to the card it now only lasts one year and not three. Everything else remains the same.

The National Blind Children's Society:

Has a wide ranging parent support service for families of children with visual impairment www.nbcs.org.uk tel 08007811444

Audio Books:

Free postal book service, with a section for children. The Calibre Audio Library can also be visited in Aylesbury Buckinghamshire please phone 01296432339 or go to www.calibre.org.uk

Cool2Care

Childcare introductory service that recruits, screens and trains care workers/personal assistants and matches families with care workers. This is a non-profit making organisation but some charges will apply.
www.cool2care.co.uk or 0845 1235484.

Dragon Dictation.

There is a new app available for iphones. This allows people to speak their text or email messages. <http://tinyurl.com/ylgqctp>

Driving

If your child is in receipt of the high rate mobility part of DLA they can apply for a driving license at 16. You can book an assessment at one of the Regional Driving Assessment Centres the nearest is at Eynsham nr Oxford www.rdac.co.uk or phone 08453371540. For a driver assessment you will need to have a full or provisional licence. They will also help with adaption's to your car for carers. They have a fully equipped vehicle.
Driving Tests

Bus Passes for Disabled Adults and Children

We have recently applied for one of these as a family and have been successful. We did not apply before because I did not feel we fitted the criteria set out on the web site. We then contacted the council and discussed it and we were advised to apply. It is free to apply via your local council web site you will need a letter from your doctor and a couple of passport sized photographs.

P2i Charitable Trust

We would like to say a very big thank you to P2i who have recently donated a cheque to Friends of O.S.C.A.R for £1,000.00. The donation will go towards publishing a Shared Care Diary for Neuro Oncology children and their families.



DONATIONS to Friends of O.S.C.A.R

Gift Aid Refund £886.76

Mrs Rowe Coffee Morning
£130.00 donation

Recycle 4 Charity. £93.94

Freedom Insurance Commission
£30.59

Northwood Prep School Easter Football Tournament.
£350.00

Mr & Mrs Bayley Trail Ride
£408.90

Mr Collier Sale of Honey
£40.00

P2i £1000.00

Karen Fake Donations from friends and family
in lieu of 40th birthday presents.
£315.00

Step Ahead Hair Salon (Wallingford)
£18.31 collection box



Offering Support To Children And Relatives
A National Charity Which Supports Families
Of A Child Deceased With A Brain Or Spinal
Tumour

Hello everyone

Just a quick update on Friends of O.S.C.A.R. Thank you to all those who attended the AGM and Family Fun Day. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the accounts and the minutes from the AGM.

Our thanks go to families who either made donations, ran fund raising events for us or who helped us at fund raising events that we were running over the summer months.

We have recently had our first donation for £1,000.00 from P2i. This money will be used to publish the Shared Care Diary for Oncology children.

We are planning to do a large fund raising event next year. If anyone has something they have always wanted to do to raise funds for charity please contact Peter Harrison via the office.

Thank you to all those of you who have donated used ink cartridges and mobile phones, used www.buy.at/friendsofoscar please take a look at this site you can buy everything from cheap rail tickets and books to your food shopping at no extra cost to yourself sometimes there are special offers for you as well as extra commission for us (posters are enclosed). This is a very easy way to help us. Finally thank you to all those of you who have purchased travel insurance through freedom we get 10% commission on all policies sold quoting OSCAR. Don't forget that we have joined up with Medic Alert and £5.00 from each emblem sold will come to Friends of O.S.C.A.R please quote OSCAR when ordering. These are all very easy ways of fund raising for us and if you would like further information then please contact the office. We now have some jewellery recycling envelopes which I have enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any old, broken jewellery or only one earring please put it in the enclosed envelope and a donation will be made to Friends of O.S.C.A.R.

We are planning to have a fund raising stall at Banbury Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 12th November if you could spare an hour or so to help with the stall we would be very grateful. We are hoping to have a tombola, prizes permitting we have about 50 at the moment and we will also be selling Xmas cards for O.S.C.A.R.

We are also looking for volunteers to help run a table at the Oxford Children's Hospital selling O.S.C.A.R Christmas cards every day w/c 7th November between 10am and 3pm. Again just an hour would be a great help.

If anyone would like to volunteer for either of these events all stock etc will be at both venues. Please ring the office on 01235 816310 or drop us an email to carolharrison@utdsl.com.

We have also just been chosen to be the charity of choice for the Chairman of Devizes Round Table. They will be arranging a number of fund raising events for us and if you live that way please support them. The first one is on the 4th November and is a firework display in Devizes.

As a charity we do need your support with both fund raising and on the committee. Without funds we will be unable to provide events and support for you. If we organise a fund raising event we try to get enough volunteers to work a rota system so no one ends up being there all day. If you feel you could help please contact the office as we are finding it is the same few families that are helping us. We need to have a committee to run the charity without a committee we would not be able to run. We meet every other month at the Children's Hospital if you would like to join or come along and see what it's like please contact the office.

We have also signed up to Just Text Giving. If you know someone who would like to make a donation using this system, they need to text FOSC00 and the amount to 70070. They will then get a text receipt with FOO on it.

Next year's pantomime is Mother Goose at the Oxford Playhouse at 2pm on the 7th January 2012 and we will be going to Randolph Hotel again for refreshments after the show. Invite letters will be going out shortly. Please return the reply slip by the date requested as we need the numbers for the venue's and you may miss out if you are late!

Meet The Committee & Advisors



Hi, my name is Colin Webber and I'm currently the Chair of Friends of O.S.C.A.R. I became involved in the charity when my son Ben was diagnosed with a high grade brain tumour in 2004.

I live in Didcot with my wife Elly, two sons, Phil and Tom. We also have three cats and a mad Labrador. We've lived in Didcot for 20 years and look fondly on the town as our home.

I'm an accountant and work at The Midcounties Co-operative, responsible for all financial and management reporting. The office has recently moved to Warwick which means I now have to spend a lot more time in the car.

I initially became more involved with Friends of O.S.C.A.R when I volunteered to carry out an independent review of the charity's accounts. I was keen to become more involved and when the role of Chair became available I put my name forward. I found the charity very supportive during a very difficult time for my family and now hope to help to others as committee member.



Hello. My name is Dave Fake- married to Karen and we have two beautiful daughters Ellie and Joely 11 and 8 respectively. Our lives were turned upside down in October 2004 when Ellie then 4 was diagnosed with a brain tumour- which unfortunately due to the location cannot be completely removed. Friends of O.S.C.A.R really helped us, by introducing us to other families in a similar

position, many of whom have become friends. The fun days, sharing information days, pantomimes and adolescent weekends, are fantastic- watching the "kids", sorry young people make new friends, take part in new activities and grow in confidence is a real inspiration, something I can carry with me in everyday life. That's why I joined the committee in 2005 to try and put a little bit back and hopefully enable FOO to continue putting a smile on

the young and older people's faces. Over the coming months I hope to be organising a sponsored tandem parachute jump-so if you are up for the challenge please let us know via the office- remember the smiles!!!



Hello. We are Carol and Peter Harrison. As you will see from the picture we have two boys Chris on the right of the picture and James on the left. Chris was diagnosed with a brain tumour in July 2001 and we became involved in FOO/O.S.C.A.R shortly before he finished treatment. Peter was chair for a while, and I now work in the FOO/O.S.C.A.R office 10 hours per week. Peter has also helped at various fund

raising events including organising the 3, Three Peaks Challenges. Both boys have taken part in the activities provided by FOO/O.S.C.A.R including the adolescent weekend, pantomimes and fun days. (We don't normally dress like this. The picture was taken on a special holiday to celebrate the boys being 21 and 18 this year respectively.)



Hello my name is Alan Bayley. I am a Freelance Television Cameraman and Photographer. Member of the O.S.C.A.R\Friends of O.S.C.A.R Committee since 1999.

The most memorable event of being part of the committee is taking part in The Nile Cycle Challenge fund raising trip to Egypt in 1995.



Hello, I am Qi Wall and I have been the treasurer of Friends of O.S.C.A.R for about the last three years. I joined Friends of O.S.C.A.R because I live in Didcot and I wanted to help those in need within our community.



I am Amanda Crossley and have a son who is now 11 years down the brain tumour journey. I have learnt much along the way regarding the minefield of education, speech difficulties, physical and other brain issues and am willing to talk to others who are at the beginning of their journey who need someone to chat to etc.

We also have one other member of the committee Steph Newton who is a grandparent to Ellie Fake

Advisors



Hi, my name is Kevin Griffin and I became involved in supporting the work of Friends of O.S.C.A.R through Carol and Peter Harrison after their son Chris was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2001. Over the years I have helped at a number of events and fundraising activities including the (almost) annual Three Peaks Challenge which I have taken

part in three times; The first time as a co-driver, then as a participant (which somehow resulted in a broken shoulder blade!), and undeterred I somehow agreed (or was tricked) into taking part again in 2010 and actually completed it! The picture is of me ironing in the rain on the top of Snowdon last year (don't ask). I have also had the great honour of dressing up as O.S.C.A.R the dog at a fund raising event-take it from me that dog costume is very warm. On a day to day basis I help by acting as a special advisor to the committee and provide secondary authorisation for financial commitments- so if you ever need a cheque signed, just ask!

We also have three other advisors Stan Newton who looks after our web site. Erica Watson who helps us with the O.S.C.A.R and trust items. Charlie Rogers who helps us with any medical issues.

Friends of O.S.C.A.R Fun Day

This year' event took place on the 3rd July (we did manage not to clash with Father's Day or the British Grand Prix this year). The event was held at Steventon Village Hall in Oxfordshire and about 50 people attended. The day was warm and sunny very good for the planned BBQ lunch. Families enjoyed a number of activities these included glass tile painting, a giant Jenga and connect 4 (thank you to Elly for arranging these for us), painting bird boxes and pottery trinket boxes. Thank you also to Tom and Phil for letting us borrow their Wii game console for the day. We had a very short AGM before lunch your minutes should be enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you to all the families that supported the day and also to the two chef's for all their help on the day.



Travel Insurance

This seems to be a problem year round for families we are still keen for you to try Freedom Insurance as they pay us a commission on all policy's sold. Please quote O.S.C.A.R when you phone.

Medi Quote Telephone **0845 8800163**

Essential Travel Telephone **08707353600**

All Clear Travel Insurance. Telephone **08707779339**,
Website **www.allcleartravel.co.uk**

Freedom Travel Insurance. Telephone **08707743760**,
Website **www.freedominsure.co.uk**

Insure and Go. Telephone **08448882787**,
Website **www.insureandgo.com**

One word of advice from a family that has recently been trying to obtain travel insurance please double check all the information given to the company go through it twice if need be. They did find that the information given was not taken down correctly the first time.

If you are having difficulty finding travel insurance please contact the office as I have just been sent a new list of insurers.