



# SNAAP

Special Needs Advisory  
& Activities Project

# SNAAP

## News

## Issue 2 (Jan 2017)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

IN THIS ISSUE

## View from the Chair

Welcome to this special edition of SNAAP's newsletter, which focuses on our spectacular Magical Winter Wonderland event held at Windchimes on 17 December 2016.

This is our flagship Christmas event which we hold every two years. It takes a whole year of planning to make the event so special, and is, of course, expensive to stage. This year we were fortunate to receive several substantial donations towards the cost of the event – details of these can be seen later in the newsletter under the 'Thanks to' section.

Huge thanks are due to SNAAP's staff who planned the day, and for all the staff and volunteers who worked hard to make the day special for over 170 children and their families – it was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces on the day.

We were particularly delighted to welcome several VIP guests to the event including Ian and Jeanette Stockley, local councillors for Beltinge Ward, Penny Southern, KCC Director of Disabled Children and Adults with Learning Difficulties and Mental Health, Christine Ward, President of Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions, and Chris Quilter from West Bay Charity Shop which has supported SNAAP for several

years. All were impressed by the event and enjoyed their visits – and were particularly touched when families allowed them to join their family's visit to Santa Claus.

Under our 'Thanks to' section, we outline other help that we have received during 2016, both financial and in other types of generous donations. It is heartwarming as Chair to hear of the generosity of people throughout the year, but especially at Christmas time. We always try to thank everyone who 'gives' to our work.

On page 4 we give you some ideas how you can help raise funds for SNAAP which include having a New Year clear out.

Already, the SNAAP team are planning lots of fun activities for the 2017 clubs and school holidays, and we look forward to seeing our children, young people and their families there.

Finally, I wish you all a happy 2017.

Until the next time!

*Stephanie*

Stephanie Swan  
SNAAP's Chair



### Magical Winter Wonderland 2016

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## Magical Winter Wonderland 2016

On arrival at Windchimes, each child received a 'goodie' bag in which they could put their craft makes and gifts collected throughout their visit. Included in the bag was an Elf passport for the child to collect a stamp at each activity they visited.

At the morning session, queuing families were entertained by circus performer, Paul Incredible, and the Big Bay Community Singers led by Lucinda one of SNAAP's lead play workers and in the afternoon, queuing families were entertained by the Mustard Seed Singers. The music and entertainment helped set the scene for what was to come.

Outside, in front of the building, families could go ice skating – the rink allowed for all abilities and disabilities and great fun was had by many.

There were reindeers to fuss and 'ooh and aah' over, as well as a real live nativity scene with Mia the Donkey, who is expecting her own foal in the spring, Ermintrude the cow and Larry the Lamb. All were gentle animals who relished the attention from children.

Going inside Windchimes, families stepped into a magical, beautifully decorated world with the ever popular 'Peter the Polar Bear' dancing and singing songs, there was a 'prize every time' tombola and lucky dip to take part in, and hot chocolate with lashings of cream or squash to drink, served by three of Santa's elves.

Going downstairs, the magic continued with sensory and sparkling snowflakes in the lift and on the walls. The first port of call was the North Pole Post Office, where visitors could write a letter to

Santa Claus and include their wish list. An elf sprinkled magic fairy dust in the envelope, before the letter was posted in the post box outside the door.

Moving down the corridor lit with sparkling fairy lights, the next stop was the arts and crafts room where two projects were available to create: a countdown advent clock in the shape of Santa's head, and a Christmas wreath decorated with snowmen. More elves were on hand to help with the projects.

Following the arts and crafts, there was the opportunity to visit Mrs. Claus's kitchen, where gingerbread people were available to decorate with icing and sweets.

Finally, a visit outside to Santa Claus himself, in his magically decorated grotto where each family was given a specially commissioned, hand decorated 'Night Before Christmas' plate and tippie glass set. Santa asked the children to put a mince pie and a carrot on the plate for him and his reindeer and also to fill the glass with his favourite tippie ahead of his visit to their house on Christmas Eve. He also gave each child a small wrapped present from his sack. A professional photographer was on hand to capture the visit, and the photos were available for the families to purchase soon after their visit.

Outside, the 'Taylor Made Diner' was on hand to supply delicious and reasonably priced hot snacks, and many families took advantage of these. On leaving the event, children were able to choose a soft toy from a vast range donated by Heart Radio's Giving Tree at Bluewater.

Families told us that they found the whole experience enchanting, and some were moved emotionally because their child had never been able, or had been frightened, to visit Santa Claus before.

Well done Carrie and Sarah for truly capturing the magic spirit of Christmas – just what SNAAP aimed for!



### One Mum tweeted:

Thank you SNAAP for an amazing Winter Wonderland – it's the little things you do that make it so special.



# Thanks to:

## For Winter Wonderland

- Burgess Hodgson Accountants for raising an amazing £6,910 through the year
- Greenhill Senior Citizen's Club who donated £800
- Canterbury Ladies Lions who donated £400
- Herne Bay Rotary Club who donated £500
- Sarah and George Whitney who collected and donated prizes for the tombola over the past two years, and who worked hard on the day raising over £400 for SNAAP
- FK Carpets in Beltinge who donated the carpets to make Santa's grotto cosy
- Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions who helped us bring Santa Claus to the day
- Santa's Elves who left their work in Lapland to volunteer at the event
- Rebecca Corrigan of Empire and Otherness, who painted the special 'Night Before Christmas' gifts
- Heart Radio and The Giving Tree at Bluewater for the soft toys that each child was able to take home

## For other December events

- Heart Radio and The Giving Tree at Bluewater for the wonderful Christmas gifts they donated to children attending our clubs
- The Provost of East Kent Freemasons who donated tickets for our families to attend Treasure Island the pantomime at the King's Hall in Herne Bay
- Herne Bay's Little Theatre who raised £506 by putting on a special performance of their annual pantomime in aid of SNAAP

- Morrisons Store in Herne Bay who chose SNAAP as their charity to receive their annual toy collection
- Everyone who attended our annual Quiz Night and AGM in December, and who gave so generously to the raffle – we raised an amazing £710 on the night
- Wahl who held a Christmas Jumper at Work Day as part of their ongoing fundraising for SNAAP

## Minibus fundraising

The total raised at the end of 2016 to reinstate the minibus short breaks stands at £9,036, recent donations include

- Reach Out Gospel Choir concert raised an amazing £850
- Sharper's Hall Masons donated £1,200
- £340 raised at a Wine and Wisdom in Littlebourne - arranged by Daphne and Irene
- Cornwallis Masons donated £250
- Rotary Club of Hythe donated £500

## Other donations since October

- Tatton Spiller and the Whitstable Outdoor Film Festival who raised £4,711 from their summer programme and £904.50 from their Christmas Show.

Thank you to everyone listed above and the very many other people who have made financial or in-kind donations throughout 2016. Every penny is much appreciated and goes towards our work to make a real difference to SNAAP families.



# Help SNAAP

## DONATIONS

Donations are the life blood of SNAAP. Can you run a sponsored marathon, donate the proceeds from a stall at a boot fair or think of some other thing on your bucket list that you can do to raise funds for us? If so, we would like to hear from you!

Or, can you spare a small regular donation each month? Sacrificing the cost of your mid-morning sweet treat would give you a health boost at the start of 2017 and would help us give a disabled child a fun day during the school holidays or would help a family get bespoke support from Natalie our Family Support Worker when facing a moment of crisis. If you can give a regular donation, find out how by visiting our website.

## GIVE AS YOU LIVE



**Give as you Live®**

Do you shop regularly on the internet?

Did you know that you can make donations to SNAAP at no cost to yourself by shopping at hundreds of popular stores such as M&S, Asda and Debenhams as well as internet based stores such as Amazon, Expedia and EBay?

By registering with Give As You Live ([www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)) and choosing SNAAP as your chosen charity you can help raise valuable funds.

Each time you buy from a store through Give as You Live a small percentage of what you spend will be donated to SNAAP. For example, if you buy something from Amazon a donation of 1.5% of the pre-VAT price will be donated to SNAAP.

If enough people register and shop this way, then significant funding could be raised for us!

## NEW YEAR CLEAR OUT

New Year is a good time to clear out wardrobes and cupboards. So, if you do find you have unwanted items that are good enough to sell please take them to one of the three independent charity shops that have chosen to support SNAAP.

Or, if you need an outfit for a specific occasion but can't afford new, then browse the clothes the charity shops have on offer – you may bag a bargain! You may also find other bargains in the bric-a-brac, books, toys or entertainment sections. The proceeds of all sales will help SNAAP and also the environment by recycling perfectly useable goods that someone else no longer wants. Someone's trash may be your treasure!

Last year, the three shops donated a whopping £11,250 between them to SNAAP.

You can find the shops at the following addresses:

**West Bay Shop**, 83a Sea Street Herne Bay;

**Seaside Shop**, 87 Sea Street, Herne Bay;

**Bambinoes**, 125 Tankerton Road, Whitstable.

## ARRANGE AN EVENT FOR US

Do you belong to a club or leisure group who could arrange a fundraising event for us? Or is your employer looking for a local charity to support in 2017?

You could have fun whilst raising funds for a good cause – ideas include: sponsored slim, home baking sales, coffee mornings or afternoon tea parties, concerts, quizzes or fun runs.

If you are willing to arrange an event for us either supporting SNAAP generally or for a specific activity, please let us know and we will help you promote it.

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