



Welcome to the June edition of the PACSO newsletter. Here you can find out what we've been up to, and what's to come this Summer.

Almost 80 children and young people enjoyed our two **Easter playdays**. We had great fun on our many **Easter holiday trips**, as well as our recent May half term trips. It was fantastic to meet many new families at our **Easter Stay and Play**, and at our **Relaxed Cinema** viewing of Peter Rabbit during half term.



We had our CYE family day on the May Bank holiday in glorious weather, and had a whale of a time at

our Disney inspired Ball at Chichester Assembly Rooms. We were treated to a disco and games from 'Captain' Nick Clark and amazing ice creams donated by **Baileys Artisan Gelato**.

**What makes PACSO so special is.... The commitment of our CEO, Val Evans, and her team.** Val has led PACSO with dedication and love. It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Val is stepping down from her role as CEO. Her final day with the charity will be August 11th.

With care, compassion and considerable skill Val has made an outstanding contribution to PACSO in her ten years at the helm of the charity. In that time PACSO has grown considerably and has offered an outstanding service to families in the Chichester and Arun districts who have a child with special educational needs or disabilities. The Trustees, parents, children and team are exceptionally grateful to Val for her

# PACSO Newsletter June 2018

## What are PACSO up to?

**Saturday Club** (am and pm @ Fordwater school) 16 June; 14 July.

'**Allo 'Allo** by the Chichester Players (starring PACSO volunteer Stephen O'Shea), Chichester High School, 20-23 June.

**Family Fundraiser** for PACSO at Woolpack Inn, Fishbourne. Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 2-6pm.

**Family Fundraiser for PACSO** at Half Moon Inn, Midhurst. Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June from 3pm.

**C.Y.E. Family Residential weekend** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Summer Playscheme: two weeks** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Summer Trips:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

dedication to PACSO and we will all miss her hugely. The Trustees are determined to build on Val's legacy and over the course of the next few weeks we will share our ideas for the future with you all. There are many reasons to be excited about the future direction of the charity and that in itself is a great tribute to Val and all that she has achieved. We look forward to celebrating her time with PACSO and will let you know how we

plan to do that soon. From all of us at PACSO, we want to say a massive **THANK YOU** to Val, and to wish her every success in the future.



Our focus in this newsletter is **volunteering**. PACSO has a fantastic team of volunteers who play a vital role in the running of the charity. We have volunteer trustees who supervise the management of the charity, and those who sit on our Play and Fundraising subcommittees. We have volunteer fundraisers, and ambassadors who help spread the word about PACSO. Importantly, we also have volunteers at our clubs and playschemes. This is **unique** to PACSO and something that makes it very special indeed.

Volunteering at our playschemes and Saturday clubs gives a fantastic insight into the work of our charity; our motivation and our inclusive ethos. It is a wonderful opportunity

for work experience for young people over the age of 12, and potential employment with PACSO as a casual playworker. Volunteers have a fantastic time with our PACSO members and their siblings, and can learn so many new skills. Thank you to all our volunteers – you know who you are!!

One of our volunteers, Stephen, tells us in his own words why he started volunteering with PACSO:

*It was my 50th birthday, I had just given my 50th pint of blood, and I decided to have a big party to celebrate my achievement, highlighting blood and organ donation! So I thought let's raise some money for charity!*

*I decided to choose Help the Heroes, The Teenage Cancer Trust, and a local one. I asked a friend, Pat O'Hanlon and he suggested PACSO. It was a phenomenal success! 150 people, black tie, singers, band, disco, and lots of cash! £1,250 each to The Teenage Cancer Trust and Help the Heroes. By then PACSO had won my heart and we gave them the remaining £3500! (I wish I had given it all to PACSO!)*



*That was 3 years ago and since then I have arranged another ball and raised even more money. It feels so good to give PACSO, bags of money (what Val does with it I don't know!) everybody should do it!*

## Why does Stephen give up his time to volunteer for PACSO?

*It's about returning time that people gave to me when I was a boy, giving something back to the community. I get a sense of wellbeing, and it's important to show my 12 year old son this is what you do in life.*

*In giving, you receive. It is fun being with inspiring children and Emma and the other team members, I enjoy organising events, it's something to look forward to, and look back on, it gives one a sense of achievement.*

## What does he get out of volunteering at Saturday club?

*Its great working with such a dedicated team, I lead a busy life! Some days are good, some are bad, that's how it goes, but **every Saturday club is a good day!** It is important to channel one's skills and talents into something creative, the club is a positive force in many ways, and Matthew and I are privileged to be part of it, thank you.*

Stephen O'Shea. May 2018

In our afterschool clubs this term, we're making the most of the longer daylight hours and sunny weather and getting out and about even more than usual!

Our Go club has lots of outdoor activities planned, and Forest Club and CYE club are also running this term. This summer, Job Club is being hosted by Bunnings, and we are having a great time getting familiar with all the plants and D.I.Y. materials! Thank you to Bunnings for hosting this very valuable work experience club.