



# News

Caring for children with disabilities

Winter 2010

30  
YEARS OF CARING

## Cherry Trees celebrates

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**Throughout 2010 we've been celebrating 30 years of caring at Cherry Trees, the highlight being a garden party on 4th July.**

Thanks to sponsorship from Allianz Insurance plc and Centor Insurance & Risk Management, entertainment was provided by the children's favourites, Dave Benson Phillips and Marco the Clown. With a hog roast provided by The Castle Inn at Ottershaw, face painting and an array of stalls and other activities, a great time was had by all.

CBBC actors Steve Furst and Chloe Bale made a guest appearance to unveil our commemorative decorative tile mural. Since autumn 2009 Cherry Trees has been working with George Abbot School for the Arts and ceramic artist, Liliana Montoya, 575 Cherry Trees and local children plus many supporters to produce the 1,000 tiles needed to complete the mural. This would not have been possible without funding from the Arts Council and Procter & Gamble.

Cherry Trees' Chairman, Trudi Harris, commented, "Without the support of the local

community, Cherry Trees would not be here today celebrating 30 years of caring. The mural project encapsulates our place in the local community perfectly and we are very grateful to everyone who has been involved."

In 1980 Dr Helen Foley recognised that families who have a child with disabilities needed a break from 24/7 caring and the idea of Cherry Trees was formed. 30 years on the house has seen many improvements and the number of children we're able to care for may have grown but we still remain true to our founding principles of offering professional short-term respite care for local youngsters with disabilities in a safe and loving environment where they can relax, play and make friends.



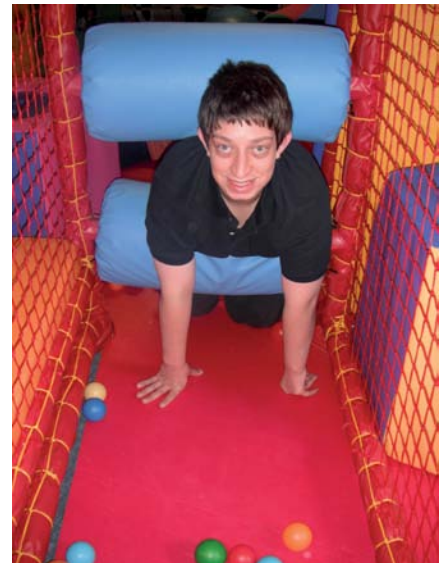
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School Lane  
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# Summer at Cherry Trees



Once again summer was very busy at Cherry Trees with the children enjoying trips to among other places, Stoke Park, the cinema and the aquarium. They also enjoyed visits from Marco the Clown, Millers Farm and Lucille Metcalfe who does Indian head massage. Two new guests proved very popular with the children, Dave Benson Phillips and a musical duet, involving a harpist and flute player from Live Music Now.



Children and staff enjoy the new soft play area

## London Marathon 2011

**Trustee Martin Billet was delighted when he got a ballot place in the 2011 London Marathon.**

Not content with just the goal of running 26.2 miles, he has also set a target of raising £5,000 for Cherry Trees. When asked why he is doing it Martin replied, "Cherry Trees has cared for our son Nick for over 13 years and I am desperately keen to say a massive "thank you" to everyone. They have always gone the extra mile for our family - so I'll try 26 miles for them. I reckon it's about 2 miles for every year he was at Cherry Trees. Please help - it's a huge target but together we can do it!" You can support him by making a donation at [www.justgiving.com/cherryrunner](http://www.justgiving.com/cherryrunner).



A lively summer at Cherry Trees included a visit from children's favourite Dave Benson-Phillips, as well as the High Sheriff of Surrey.

If you too have a ballot place, why not consider running for Cherry Trees? Contact Jan Eastaff on 01483 222507 or [fundraising@cherry-trees.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@cherry-trees.co.uk) for a support pack.

# What **Cherry Trees** means to us

## In one word – “EVERYTHING”

**Adam was diagnosed with Di-George Syndrome and Epilepsy when he was 18 months old.**

During the first three years of Adam's life we seemed to spend more time in hospital than at home. When we finally got a diagnosis it was a relief but, little did we know, the hard work was only just beginning. To cut a long story short, Adam is a very poor sleeper and has extreme behaviour

and learning difficulties which, as most of you will realise, means life for our family is very stressful and demanding.

Adam started going to Cherry Trees in June 2004; first for tea visits and then building up to his first overnight stay in September 2004. In August 2009 he stayed for a week which enabled us to have our first holiday in 16 years.

Cherry Trees is Adam's special place; he often tells us, "You not stay at Cherry Trees." He loves going there and has made many special friends with not only the other children who visit but also the staff. It is a real home from home, the only exception being that at Cherry Trees everyone has lots of energy! Adam loves to know who he is sharing with and which room he's staying in. He even has different numbers on his bedroom door at home, which he chooses, and says, "It's good like Cherry Trees." Adam has had some wonderful experiences with Cherry Trees that we could never have managed with him including the Flight of Dreams to see Santa. It's right that he isn't always with Mum and Dad, after all, all kids need their independence.

We thought it would be easy to say what Cherry Trees means to us but finding the right words to express it exactly is extremely difficult. As we don't have family in the area to help, Cherry Trees is a godsend and the respite they provide enables us to spend time with our daughter and to catch up on some much needed sleep. We have no doubt that without Cherry Trees we would not survive as a family; they are our lifeline, our oxygen.

In the Oxford Dictionary under the heading 'Loving, caring, devoted staff who bring pleasure and joy to all the children who visit', it says "see Cherry Trees".

*Sharon, Tim, Hayley  
and Adam Davies*



# Taking up the Cherry Trees Challenge

Alex Simmonds' brother Robert has been coming to Cherry Trees for nearly 10 years so when he decided to compete in the London Triathlon in August, he contacted us saying, "I would like to raise money for Cherry Trees as it's so close to my heart and you do such a fantastic job for Robsie and all the other kids." Not only did Alex manage to swim 1.5km then cycle for 40km finishing with a 10km run, he did it in an amazing 2 hours, 18 minutes, 18 seconds and raised a fantastic £2,228 at the same time. Following the competition Alex said, "It has to be the hardest thing I've ever done, both mentally and physically, but it was amazing doing it for Cherry Trees - it really gave me extra motivation."

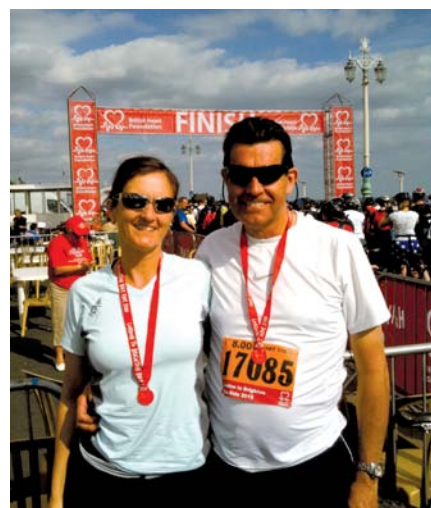


Having volunteered at Cherry Trees as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award, James Barras-Banks decided to walk Hadrian's Wall in September, realising that it would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of Cherry Trees – and some much-needed cash. James successfully completed the 135km walk; well done, sir!

Cherry Trees also benefitted when West Clandon resident Mel Green and his daughter Melanie decided to compete in the London to Brighton Bike Ride. Mel joined the 27,000 cyclists travelling the 56 miles, culminating in a buzzing atmosphere on Brighton seafront and raised £1,355 that was matched by Mel's employer, BP, from its Employee Matching Fund.

Emily Cross' son, Sean, regularly attends Cherry Trees so when she and a group of friends cycled the 37 miles Downs Link from St Martha's near Guildford finishing at Shoreham on the 3rd October, Emily saw this as an ideal opportunity to raise funds for us.

**Congratulations to Alex, James, Mel, Melanie, Emily and friends and a big thank you from all the Cherry Trees families.**



Top: James Barras-Banks decided to walk Hadrian's Wall in September, hiking 135km and raising awareness of Cherry Trees in the process. Left: Alex Simmonds competing in the gruelling London Triathlon in August. Right: Mel and Melanie Green after they had finished the London to Brighton Bike Ride in aid of Cherry Trees.

# Respite ain't just Respite

After thirteen years of attending Cherry Trees, the time had come this summer for Nick to leave for pastures new at the age of 19. Nick's last day was on Saturday 28th August. He had a leaving party and we were very moved by the personal and genuine sense of loss we felt from everyone. We had been dreading the day (along with his last day at school in July) as it was another step towards a major turning point in our lives - Nick's departure from home to live at Low Laithes Residential Village in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

After a stressful and lengthy battle with Social Services to identify any establishments in the South of England that could meet Nick's complex needs, we looked further afield until we finally found Low Laithes Village and spent the early summer planning in detail for Nick's transition. This involved visits by his new carers to Cherry Trees for detailed briefings by Paula and the team together with home and school visits to learn about his behaviour and habits.

We took Nick up to Barnsley on August Bank Holiday Sunday armed with well – planned behaviour management strategies for the long car journey but thankfully the trip went really well. On arrival, Nick immediately started to explore his new surroundings with confidence and, after a slightly anxious first day, he has settled in brilliantly and was sleeping all night from the off (having been used to another bed apart from home).

His settling in was better than we could have dared hope for and the feedback from his new care team is that, because he has spent so much time at Cherry Trees working his way up from short tea visits to day care, then regular overnights and onto more lengthy stays, he has been well-prepared for an independent life away from home.

## Our conclusion is simply this -

Respite care is often seen as a short-term break for families and youngsters just to give everyone “a breather” which is fundamental to supporting them but, in addition, its other immense value is the long-term independence and confidence that our youngsters acquire as result of the home-from-home care that the CT team routinely provide, built up over years of attendance.

Nick's new Head of Care at Low Laithes, Richard Cooper, said to us recently that Nick's years at Cherry Trees have been “the biggest favour you could have done for Nick”. So, even after Nick has left, the Cherry Trees legacy of love and care has travelled onwards with him and he's thriving. Thanks once again to everyone at East Clandon!

Martin Billet

Nick enjoying enjoying his time at Low Laithes in Yorkshire



# Helping us to make a difference

## Companies that care

Sainsburys believes in making a positive difference to the communities it serves and, following nominations from their customers, Cherry Trees was delighted to be chosen by the Burpham branch as their Charity of the Year 2010/11. Their support means a lot to us. After a vote between 6 different local charities, Lexus Guildford chose to donate a day's hands on help to Cherry Trees so on Tuesday 14th September a team of 9 staff came ready for a day of redecoration; this was to include a kitchen and children's bedroom and a lot was achieved in a short amount of time! Everyone agreed it was a great day out and what a fantastic way to give something back to the community.



The team from Lexus Guildford after helping us with a day's decorating

## Schools that support

Local schools got active this summer, with Cranmore raising £3,156 from their annual sponsored swim in aid of Cherry Trees and Ripley Court held its 3rd sponsored walk raising £5,631, some of which will buy a new music system for our home. Cherry Trees was also the recipient of lots of goodies following the harvest service at Cranmore in October. Parkside School held a 'Raise a Smile' concert at the end of the summer term and elected to send the proceeds, totalling over £1,300, to us. As well as helping to organise and provide financial support for our community arts project, George Abbot School kindly donated £500 following the Year 7 Charity Fundraising Week earlier in the year. We are extremely grateful to all the schools that continue to offer us such invaluable support.



Students from Cranmore School with the goodies gathered for Cherry Trees following their harvest service

# focus on volunteers



A great crowd at the 2nd Albany Free Festival in July

## Albury Free Festival

The 2nd Albury Free Festival took place on a sunny Sunday in July and, with a great line-up of bands and singers, it was no surprise that it was so well supported. Cherry Trees was delighted to have been chosen as the lead charity by the organisers, the Albury Produce Association, and donations on the day raised over £1,000.

## Quiz Night at St Teresa's

One Saturday in October, 115 Cherry Trees supporters gathered at St Teresa's school in Effingham to participate in the ever-popular Cherry Trees quiz, hosted by patron Rob Curling. This event raised over £2,500 and we would like to thank everyone who made it possible: St Teresa's, Rob Curling, caterer Jayne Gayer, pianist Gerry Prince, Martin & Margaret Mabey, fundraising committee members Valerie Rose and Jan Cotton and their band of helpers.

Local GP and East Clandon resident Cathy McMullan's involvement with Cherry Trees dates from the mid 1980s when Trudi Harris, our current Chairman, approached her to help with fundraising (she remembers the small cupboard in the house which used to be the fundraising office). She was later co-opted onto the executive council and became a trustee. Cathy is still an active member of the fundraising committee and is known throughout the area as the organiser of our annual collection day in Guildford every November, so much so that when Cathy picks up the phone to our supporters at the end of October, on hearing her voice, many of them sigh and wonder if it's really that time of the year again...



Cathy's involvement doesn't stop there. Until recently she chaired the Health and Safety Committee helping to ensure that the standard of care we offer is second to none. However, when asked what her favourite job is at Cherry Trees, Cathy replied, "I love driving the minibus as these school runs give me a chance to have contact with the children and carers who provide real inspiration not just to me but to all the volunteers."

Without the help we receive from Cathy and other volunteers our operating costs would be considerably higher. We are extremely grateful for the many hours people devote to ensuring Cherry Trees runs smoothly.

# Diary Dates

For up-to-date information on events and other Cherry Trees news visit [www.cherry-trees.co.uk](http://www.cherry-trees.co.uk)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jan Eastaff on 01483 222507 or [fundraising@cherry-trees.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@cherry-trees.co.uk).



# Thank you

## Churches

- St. Francis Women's Fellowship
- St. Mary's, East Horsley
- St. Mary's, Send

## Schools

- Boxgrove
- Charterhouse
- Cranmore
- George Abbot
- Parkside
- Ripley Court

## General

- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- Alex Simmonds
- Dr & Mrs G Barrett 80th birthdays
- East Clandon Fete
- Emma Hart
- Euna & Ian's wedding
- Lucy Howe Coffee Morning
- Meetings Industry Meeting Needs
- Mr & Mrs B Marsh Wedding Anniversary

- Mr B Merriman
- Mr C Forbes
- Mr E Donnelly
- Mr J Davey
- Mr J Jeffrey
- Mr Mel Green
- Mr P Davey
- Mr R Sharpe
- Mr Timms
- Mrs A Osborne Bridge Tea
- Mrs B Taylor
- Surrey Hills Festival
- West Horsley Fete

## Clubs & Societies

- Albury Produce Association
- Guildford Arts
- Ottershaw WI
- Serendipity
- The Whips

## Businesses

- Allianz
- AWB Partnership
- Blue Kangaroo
- BUPA
- Centor

- David Harland Photography
- East Horsley News
- Exemus Graphics
- F. Conisbee & Son
- Lexus, Guildford
- Martin's, Merrow
- Northbrook Fundraising
- RLH Advertising & Marketing
- Sainsbury's, Burpham
- Sibley's
- Sweet Vending
- The Castle, Ottershaw
- The Compasses, Gomshall
- The Duke of Cambridge, Tilford
- The Duke of Wellington
- The Horsley Directory
- The Prince of Wales
- The Vintage Wine Company
- Tunsgate Square Shopping Centre
- Waitrose, Esher
- Waitrose, Goldsworth Park

## In Memory

- Carol Martin
- Eric Billet
- Evelyn Hill
- John Taylor

## Golf Clubs

- Burhill Golf Club
- Effingham Golf Club
- Worplesdon Golf Club

## Trusts

- The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- Tallow Chandlers' Company
- The Chapman Trust
- The Erica Leonard Trust
- The Evelyn Charitable Settlement
- The Joseph Strong Frazer Trust
- The Kelsey Trust
- The Loseley & Guildway Charitable Trust
- The Wallace Curzon Trust



**Regular income, no matter what the size, is vital to Cherry Trees. It helps us to plan, secure in the knowledge that we have the much needed funds to run Cherry Trees. Giving through a regular standing order from your bank also saves Cherry Trees money as it cuts down on administration costs.**

*giftaid it*

**Your gift can be worth 28% more!**

In this harsh economic climate, tax efficient giving is more important than ever allowing us to maximise our income from donations. If you are a UK tax payer Cherry Trees can reclaim £2.82 for every £10 donated.

**Thank you for your support. Your gift will help ensure that children with disabilities and their families continue to receive respite care.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Your donation:

I would like to make a donation and enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to Cherry Trees) **or**

I would like to pay Cherry Trees the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly / £ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly / £ \_\_\_\_\_ annually starting on \_\_\_\_\_

### Your bank details:

Bank/Building Society: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Aid Declaration:

I want all donations I've made since 6th April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise (please tick)

### Instruction to your bank:

Please credit Cherry Trees, Account Number 03419207 at NatWest Plc (Sort code 60-09-21) with the amount shown on the date specified and on the same date thereafter until I give you notice in writing. Please quote reference \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Please return to:

Fundraising office,  
Cherry Trees, School  
Lane, East Clandon,  
Surrey GU4 7RS