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Newsletter Autumn 2020



Hello everyone.

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. We hope you are all keeping safe and well. We have lots of news for you; including information about some great competitions which you can take part in and fabulous photos of you going out and about for our sponsored Autumn Activity Day.

Our Sponsored Autumn Activity Day

We were so impressed by your efforts on our Sponsored Autumn Activity Day on Sunday 4th October and during that week. It was wonderful to see you out and about doing your chosen challenges and fundraising tasks. Thank you for sending in your photos. Here we can see Sheridan, Ella and Ben having lots of fun. We must give an extra mention to Ben as he was also our biggest fundraiser on the day, raising a magnificent £300!!



And here are Harry, Georgia, Laura and Luke doing their Autumn Activities.

So far, we have received over £750!! **Well done all of you who took part!!**



Becky's Busy Job – Keeping busy during Covid!

We thought we would tell you more about Becky's role and what keeps her busy at BGOA HQ during the holidays; and more specifically now during these long months of Covid.

As you know Becky has been running her fun Zoom sessions for all Members who want to log in and take part in some fun activities with us. These have been hugely successful with Members being able to see each other and enjoy regular contact with their friends.

As Club Development Officer, Becky has a lot of other responsibilities behind the scenes to ensure that the Club can keep going, including:

- Working closely with our lovely new Fundraiser Tim to apply for grants which pay for BGOA to run now and which also provide some financial security to take BGOA into the future
- Working with our great Treasurer Barry, who sits on the board of Trustees. Barry looks after all the money coming into BGOA and going out of BGOA; which is a hugely important role
- Working with our new Administrator Janette on day to day admin tasks and ensuring that the running of BGOA is organised and efficient going forward
- Working with the Board of Trustees and preparing for the six weekly committee meeting, as well as the AGM
- Meeting with our Volunteers and recruiting new ones
- Dealing with enquiries from potential new Club Members
- Work to take the charity forward into the future such as sourcing a permanent premises and regular contact with our local supporters and donors
- Publicity and regular liaison with National Mencap
- Ongoing email contact with Members about activities and sponsored events for Club Members
- Advising and supporting Members and their families regarding issues which affect Adults with a Learning Disability

As you can see, it is a busy time for Becky, even when there are no Club nights or Out and About trips happening!! Sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day!! Luckily, and as you all know, Becky loves her job, and it is very important to her to know that she is doing her best for BGOA and each and every one of its members.



Our Volunteers, Staff and Team Members



We asked all of our existing Volunteers, Staff and Trustees to write a paragraph about themselves and on this, and each forthcoming Newsletter we will include one; so that you can get to know all of our volunteers and team members.

This time we are introducing our lovely new Secretary to the Trustees, Beck:



I work day-to-day in insurance claims and associated litigation. I had a break from this running a floristry and garden business for six years before returning to the insurance / legal profession. Flowers and gardens remain an avid hobby. I have used floristry workshops for charitable purposes, and I have a real passion for doing what I can for others. I am a founding member and trustee of our local community cinema, through which we have been able to provide grants to the local community.

I have been looking for another charity to be involved in and Bath Gateway really appealed to me. Although I have only seen the members on Zoom so far this year due to restrictions, I have never left a zoom session not feeling very warm and happy. I can't wait to get along to one of the in-person club sessions to meet everyone in person and have a good sing song (I can't get enough of singing, especially when Disney is involved!). When not singing or gardening, I am usually with my dogs out and about, rambling. It is an exciting time for this charity, and it is a wonderful thing to be a part of.

Becky and everyone at Bath Out and About would like to say a huge thank you to Beck for all her hard work and support to the Club. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our Club Nights as soon as we are able to!



Jokes Jokes Jokes!!!



We all love a good joke; send us your favourite joke and we will include it in next Newsletter!!

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2020!!!



Just a reminder that this year we are holding a competition for you all to design and make your own Christmas Card.

It can be drawing, a painting or a collage. You can use paper, fabric, card, wool, tissue paper, sparkly things and glitter!! The card should be A5 in size (15 x 21 cms). This is the size of a piece of A4 paper folded in half.

Please send your finished card to Becky at: 44 Brookfield Park, Weston, Bath BA1 4JQ. The closing date for entries is Friday 6th November.

And now for the exciting bit!!

There will be 3 winners, and the 3 winning cards will be printed and sent out to all our members, carers and supporters this year!! Your card will represent the Bath Gateway Out and About Club to all of the special people who support us, so lots of people in Bath will see your wonderful artwork!! We want as many of you as possible to have a go and make a card; and have lots of fun doing it.



Bath Gateway Out and About Club Calendar Competition

This year we are going to do things a little differently for our annual Calendar. If you watch Countryfile, you will know that every year they have an amazing competition where people send in their photos, and the 12 winning photographs are selected to go into the Calendar. This year we are going to do the same; so, we want you to go out and about and take some amazing photos. The theme for the competition is “A Lovely View”; so, it could be the view from your favourite walk or somewhere nice that you like to go. If you can’t get out and about it could be a view from your window, or your favourite part of the garden. We would love to see birds, trees, the sky, scenes from nature and wildlife and anything else outside which you like to look at!! Do you have a favourite building, or is there a part of Bath that you like to go to perhaps? Go out and about and find that “Lovely View”!

If your photo is selected it will go into this year’s Bath Out and About Club Annual Calendar!

The closing date is Monday 9th November, and your photos should be emailed or posted to Becky:

bathoutandabout@gmail.com

44 Brookfield Park, Weston, Bath BA1 4JQ



Our Annual General Meeting on Zoom - 19th October



Thank you so much to each and every one of you who attended our Annual General Meeting on Zoom on Monday 19th October. It was really wonderful to see you all taking part in this really important Club Meeting. We all had some fun too and we managed to do some dancing afterwards!!

Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can all get together again properly and celebrate with a wonderful disco!!

At the Meeting one member from each club was elected to be their club representative going forward into next year.

- For our Monday club this will be Paul Clelland
- For the 1st Wednesday Club, it will be Kayleigh Box and Lee Hutchinson
- For the 2nd Wednesday Club - Laura Armshaw

We really hope you enjoy being your Club reps and we will announce the quarterly meeting dates after Christmas. It is so important that our Members have a voice both at Club Meetings and when we need to make important decisions about how the Clubs are run.

A big thank you also to Barry, our hardworking Treasurer who spends a lot of time preparing all of the paperwork before an AGM, producing our very important annual Treasurers Report. Thank you also to Beck our Secretary, to Juliette who did such a good job as acting Chair, to the other Trustees and to all the Volunteers who logged in.

Thank you!

Donations and Subscriptions to the Club

Following Becky's email about donating to the club during the current Covid restrictions; we have been pleased to receive some generous donations which will help keep us going and allow us to re-launch with lots of activities when we are allowed to do so. If you would like to donate; you can do this by donating via our charity sites online; the links are listed below, and you just have to click on them:



<https://localgiving.org/charity/gatewayoutandabout/>



<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1008807>



<https://www.facebook.com/Bath-Gateway-Out-and-About-297355700455247/> (click Donate button near top of page)

Or you can send a cheque made payable to Bath Gateway Out and About, to Becky at the address on the last page of this newsletter. As we said in the last Newsletter; other clubs have continued to collect subscriptions during Covid and several people within our clubs had suggested that we should be doing the same. However, it is of course up to you to decide how you would like to respond and what you feel is appropriate.

Leave a gift to be remembered by and make your wishes come true

For many people, a will is the final message they send to their family's friends and the wider community about their wishes and how they want to be remembered.

One of the best ways to help a good cause or charity is to include them in your will. Leaving a charitable gift in your will can reflect your connection to a cause that is close to your heart and ensure that they benefit financially one day.

Gifts left in wills ensure that hardworking charities like us and other invaluable good causes are able to keep going and continue to care about and support vulnerable members of the community.

If you think you would like to help Bath Gateway Out and About in this way, the following organisations and websites can give you further helpful advice and information:

www.mencap.org.uk
Remembercharity.org.uk
[Charities Aid Foundation -
cafonline.org](http://Charities Aid Foundation - cafonline.org)
www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity



