

COMMITTEE UPDATE



*Raft building at
River Dart Country
Park*



*"We would welcome
your support for
fundraising.."*

If you were not able to make it to the AGM, I'm sure with Facebook that you became aware that Ellen & Barrie gave up their posts in SnackPack and I took on the chair. Janet Webber, Tony Hooper and Alison Betts are still on the committee - but we would like to have a few more volunteers. We are particularly in need of a treasurer, as Tony has done it for decades, and would really like to hand over to someone else. Pam Bines is the vice-chair. Pam is my next door neighbour and took pity on me trying to sort out all the SnackPack paperwork Ellen left me. Having done that, I asked if she'd be willing to come on the committee as vice-chair, and much to my relief she said 'yes'. Since then, she has shown remarkable commitment to SnackPack and

many of you will have been communicating with her when we were making the arrangements for the River Dart week-end. I was unable to get a newsletter out before River Dart - but I hope this post-River Dart one will bring you up to date on what's been going on. To be honest Pam and I have spent most of our time fund raising. There was no large grant from agencies that Ellen had applied to, and fortunately our begging letters, and applications to various Trusts and individuals provided the majority of the funds to support the week-end. We would welcome your support for fundraising - either by attending any events put on by SnackPack members, or putting on an event yourselves.

Marie McAdams
Chairperson



Zorbing !!!



The River Dart weekend – 4th – 6th July

We were very fortunate with the weather – glorious sunshine on Saturday, more on Sunday, though with a few showers.

The following is a 'report' written by Amy, one of our Junior Committee members:

When I went to River Dart I knew I was going to have a great time as I had had so much fun last year.

From the round robin on Friday night after tea where we had adventure activities to kayaking, canoeing, zip wires, high ropes, crating and building rafts over the next day and a half it was great.

We shared rooms and got to make new friends with those who had not been to River Dart before and were newly diagnosed. We were spilt into groups with an instructor and 2 members of the diabetic team, and got to take turns in all the

activities over the Saturday and Sunday morning although no one had to go up on the high ropes if they didn't want to – so don't worry if you don't like heights!

We all ate together which gave us an opportunity for those on injections to see what it is like to have a pump. We all got to brush up on our carb counting abilities!

Maria, the Dietician, was there as well to give us a hand calculating and I think we all came away from the weekend more confident in our carb counting. I think the River Dart weekend is really fun and I got a lot out of it – not least a boost in my confidence. It was also great not to be the only T1 for a change and no-one asking questions like "Why are you making your fingers bleed?"

Saturday 6th September

We are looking at a day out to Crealy. It would be good to know how many people would be interested in coming along – so please express interest if you would like to come. The hope is that it would be a family day out – so parents and siblings and friends could come for the day with us.

We have been able to negotiate a reduced price (as a group) and have been offered the use of the 'Big Top' or a section of one of the restaurant areas for our use. We thought that though some might wish to bring a picnic, others would prefer to purchase food on site, so

it would be important to have somewhere to sit and be together – out of the rain! Having been so lucky with the River Dart weekend, it would be challenging fate to think we'd be guaranteed the same weather in September.

The idea is that families come via their own transport, and arrive at a stated time, so we can give you your tickets. We are currently waiting for a price for an annual family membership as that may be something that some families might like to have. Again, once we have the price we will see who would like to apply.



Rafting at River Dart Country Park



All that wet gear!!



December Outing

Would families like to think about doing something different this December? I have enjoyed the Sail with Santa when we have gone, but wondered if perhaps people would like to try something different. Would taking the train

from Buckfastleigh with a Santa on board appeal? Or perhaps folk might prefer a trip on the Tarka Line with or without Santa. Your thoughts and preferences would be welcome and help us to decide what we could organise.

Fund Raising

Fund raising this year has not been easy. For the previous 3 years SnackPack has had a grant from Children in Need of £3,000 per year which went a long way to our target for the River Dart Weekend and other events.

At the beginning of the year there were major changes in the Committee Members, leaving only three previous members in situ. Our Bank Balance was low and we had no foreseeable funds to come in.

The Gray Matter had to go into action to work overtime to try to find the funds we needed for the coming year.

It was hard but eventually we got the money we needed to fund the River Dart Weekend. We did various fund raising events in our local Community. We have been knitting and had a very successful sale at various locations of Easter Egg Cosies, raising over £150.00. The knitting is ongoing and later in the year we will find an event to sell our wares.

We have had sales of gift items

(which have all been donated by a local company) raising again over £150.00. We have held a Coffee Morning which raised a staggering £420.00 and have since done two more Coffee Mornings raising another £150.00.

A newly diagnosed 9 year old little girl, Maddie, did a show with some of her school friends and raised £9.00.

We did a collection day at Sainsburys, Pinhoe, Exeter and this raised £50.00 where we also displayed information on Type 1 to help raise awareness and we were fortunate to be selected to be involved with Waitrose Exeter in their green token scheme and this raised £290.00. We also collected vouchers in the Express and Echo Cash for Communities Scheme and £475.00 has been awarded to us. All this local fund raising has been done with the help of a few people's sterling efforts and has not only raised some welcome funding, it has also helped to raise awareness of Type 1 Diabetes locally.



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Fund Raising Continued

This hard work raised nearly £1,700 and whilst Local fund raising is incredibly important we need to find more money to support our activities and this has been achieved by trawling the internet to see which Foundations and Trusts we could approach. We have also written to 9 Local MP's and wrote to various local Companies.

We had many refusals but also many successes. We received funds from the following:

Essex Trust	£1,600
The Norman Family Trust	£250
The Adams Trust	£600
South West Water	£200
Ashfords Solicitors	£200
Exeter Diabetes Group	£750
Councillor John Berry	£300
Nicks Family Trust	£200

So with these additional contributions we've managed to raise nearly £5,800, a fantastic achievement and we are extremely grateful to all the people and organisations who have helped and contributed.

We now have to concentrate on getting funds for the future and we hope that you may be inclined to assist in any way you can. If you know anyone who offers grants/funding please let us know and we will approach them. If you see anything offering funding (similar to this year's Express & Echo Cash for Communities

Scheme), again please let us know. **If you could do any fundraising yourself, we would love to hear from you and we will assist in any way we can.** If you knit, how about doing some for us? How about donating all those things that are cluttering up the house and you really have to get rid of, to us to sell. We will arrange to meet and pick them up. How about getting together with other parents and having your own Coffee Morning/Chat?

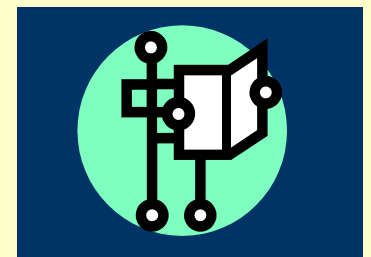
IF YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR FUND RAISING, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

THE MORE MONEY WE RAISE, THE LESS YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR ANY FUTURE TRIPS. IT MAKES SENSE SO PLEASE, PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN.

Pam Bines
Vice Chairperson



"So with these additional contributions we've managed to raise nearly £5,800."



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