

# ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

The Appletree Centre, Princes Road, Romsey SO51 8DS

01794 511927 (Tues & Thurs 9-1pm)

Registered Charity No. 266330



**December 2022**



## Dear Parents/Carers, Volunteers and Staff

This is the last newsletter of the year. It seems unbelievable that we are about to say goodbye to 2022 and welcome in 2023! We are happy to welcome two more families to the ROG gang and we are working on some positive changes at the beginning of the new year so we can help even more families and minimise our waiting list. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best Christmas possible and a peaceful new year.



## ROG Update

Our lovely Lyn's resignation was mentioned briefly in our last newsletter. As most of you will be aware Lyn was our Family Co-ordinator for many years at Romsey Opportunity Group and she has been a real support to the families who have come through the ROG doors. Lyn's obvious passion for helping children with additional needs has been something that was evident in her work. We understand the extremely difficult circumstances around Lyn's resignation and we have given her the opportunity to provide a written statement to you all in her own words.

### A message from Lyn Bird

Romsey Opportunity Group has been a huge part of my life for nearly 17 years. It has been an immense pleasure to work alongside a wonderful team of staff and volunteers and I count it a privilege that families have allowed me into their lives during very traumatic years but also celebrate with them every success each child makes. We have built stronger Parents and given children, who could be disadvantaged, opportunities to have fun safely while developing in their early years.

It was therefore with a heavy heart that I made my resignation on the 31st October.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year since my shock diagnosis of advanced Cancer. I have had flowers, crafts, gifts and messages all encouraging me during surgeries and treatment. After 9 months I was very pleased to receive the amazing news that the Cancer is now dormant and with daily physio I am now much stronger and in less pain. I have been very determined to recover! I therefore regret it has not been made possible for me to return in any capacity to Opportunity Group. I still hope in time to feel able to visit and would love to keep in touch. I wish the group every success supporting children and families for many more years.

Fondest regards,  
Lyn

## Dates for your Diary



### December 2022

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Party 10.00am-12noon

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Staff / Volunteer lunch at the Luzborough 1.00pm

### January 2023

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Staff / Volunteers only

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Children return

# **Fundraising**

## **Dutton Gregory Solicitors Quiz & Curry Night**

3PB barristers chambers  
College chambers  
Dutton gregory (of course!)  
Quantuma  
Azets  
Winchester university law department  
Southampton Solent university law department (the winners)  
HJS  
Rathbones  
Primmer Olds  
Martin & Co  
Jackson Conveyancing  
AOM Ltd

Thank you to the above firms entering a team

We were amazed by the astonishing amount of money raised by everyone who attended the Dutton Gregory Solicitors Quiz & Curry Night at the Mecure Hotel in Winchester.

Thank you to one of our lovely Dads, Jon Whettingsteel, who went above and beyond once again to promote and organise such a successful evening. We would also like to thank all the individuals and companies who donated such generous raffle prizes. We have already started putting the money to good use.



## **Romsey Charities Christmas Fair**

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 we had a tombola stall at the annual Romsey Charities Christmas Fair. We raised over £200! It was so much fun meeting new people and to create awareness locally of Romsey Opportunity Group.



Thank you to everyone who helped on the day, everyone who visited our stall and spent money and especially to those who donated items for our tombola. We would like to say a special thank you to Anna Hunt, Diane Lowman, Waitrose, Angel Floss, Roundabout Toys and Mole. We must also give a mention to Sue Fisher who once again made her famous Appletree Centre chutney to sell. It certainly was very popular so thank you Sue for all your time and effort.



## What's Happening at Group.....



Thanks to the fundraising from Dutton Gregory Solicitors, we have been able to provide our families with some much-needed festive cheer with a trip to Hillier Gardens Light Up display. Some of our families have already attended and have said what a wonderful experience it has been.

### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day 2022

With the official Christmas Jumper Day falling on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, we have made it a Christmas Jumper week at ROG so our Tuesday gang did not miss out on the fun.



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

We have now counted up the money and we have raised an amazing £82.50 for Save the Children. We have included a couple of photos of our lovely staff and volunteers dressed in their festive sweaters! Thank you so much to everyone who took part and donated.



Visit our website <http://www.romseyopgroup.org.uk>  
e-mail [rog@romseyopgroup.org.uk](mailto:rog@romseyopgroup.org.uk) or **01794 511927 (Appletree)** Tuesday and Thursday  
**9.15am – 2.15pm** term time only. Ring **07726 957735** at all other times and leave a message with your name and phone number and we will ring you back as soon as possible.