

The Springboard Project Annual Report 2006 – 2007



investing in the environment

**National Runner-Up
Small Grant Projects 2006**



our people, our places, our future

www.springboardproject.com

WELCOME TO Springboard



“Where Fun is Compulsory”

OUR MISSION

Springboard Project is a community based charitable Children's Centre providing safe, accessible, inclusive play and recreational facilities together with other leisure opportunities for children and young people with disabilities and families with young children irrespective of status supported with membership, advocacy and information services

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

Cherryl Donovan	Chairman
Brian Smith	Hon. Treasurer & Secretary
Cllr. John Charles	Trustee
Sarah Frost Wellings	Trustee
Stewart Grant	Trustee
Sue Morley	Trustee
Sharon Turton	Advisor - VSLDO WSCC Children's Services

OUR STAFF

Nigel Scott-Dickeson	Project Manager
Jacqui Merridew	Project Co-ordinator
Jenni Royce	Activities Co-ordinator
Nina Peate	Play Co-ordinator
Helen van Yperen	Financial Co-ordinator
Loraine Bird Maureen Butcher Morag Cameron Christine Huckstepp Linda Southward	Project Assistants
Christine Huckstepp Charlotte Neller Cathy Powling	Project Housekeepers

SPRINGBOARD PROJECT IS.....

SPRINGBOARD PROJECT has now been established for 17 years having originally been formed from the nucleus of the "Grasshoppers" self help group and other voluntary groups for young children with disabilities. Our unique range of memberships enable children of all abilities to enjoy safe and accessible play and recreation facilities both within and outside the Centre.

CHEEKY MONKEYS
 the family members' group who can access our Centre between 10 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday with private hire facilities also available for children's birthday parties or group events at weekends



BUNNY HOPPERS
 a group for under 5's with disabilities and their families providing "on-site" respite sessions and a volunteer mentoring scheme for newly diagnosed disabled children in West Sussex or Brighton & Hove

GRASSHOPPERS
 offers holiday activities and a Saturday Club for children aged 5 to 13 who have disabilities and additional needs as well as providing valuable respite to their parents and carers



OUTBURST
 enables teenagers (13-18) with additional needs and disabilities to move on from Grasshoppers and enjoy a range of outings and recreational activities more suited to their age group whilst providing respite care



BUDDIES
 a friendship scheme for youngsters aged 11-18 needing additional support, facilitating access to local recreation and leisure facilities in Crawley and Horsham and across Mid Sussex with volunteers from their own age group



TWINS & MoM's CLUB
 caters for parents of twins and multiple birth children providing a regular meeting place, support and activities with the guidance of our own Health Visitor



STEP-BY-STEP
 our Dance Group established to give youngsters needing additional support a regular club setting to enjoy dance and music sessions every week in a safe but fun environment



TOY LIBRARY
 contains toys, play equipment and fancy dress hire for children up to age 8 with an extended range of play equipment for children of all abilities



SPRINGBOARD HOUSE

SPRINGBOARD HOUSE has been established as a Centre for the Springboard Project since 1996. Due to the generosity of the "Three Oaks Trust", who originally assigned the building to our charity, full ownership was handed over to the Project several years ago.

The building dates back to the Victorian era and has therefore needed significant modernisation to meet the needs of the families and their children who use these facilities extensively. Further improvements have been carried out this year in the Jubilee Leisure Garden with a new playtrain and "Springboard Junction" wall mural.

Pudsey's Playroom....

...based on the 1st Floor of the Centre offers daily programmes of arts, crafts, music and other creative play sessions for all children whatever their ability or aptitude may be

The Adventure Room....

...is a fully fitted soft-play area with a large ball pool, trampoline, musical hopscotch pad, and is a great place to use up all that excess energy or take those first few steps as a toddler

The Lounge....

...provides that "home from home" feel with comfy chairs, a piano, rocking horse and a range of toys and books with drawing pens and paper to enjoy time playing with friends

The Sensory Room....

... features a glowing ball pool, bubble tubes, optic fibres, a swinging hammock, soft music and a variety of sensory equipment to relax both children and adults...especially the youngsters with disabilities or sensory impairments

The Kitchen....

..... refitted to provide an area for children to have lunchtime snacks and light refreshments with a fridge, cooker and microwave provided and is a favourite place for "Saturday Club" when our Grasshoppers children can enjoy cookery sessions

The Jubilee Leisure Garden....

..... our large outdoor play area includes picnic benches, swings, slides, play house, soft fall area with sandpit, safe surface centre circle with play logos, hopscotch pad and synthetic grass areas. Since the first redesign in 2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, a series of further improvements have been completed and in 2006 this area was classed Runner Up in the National Biffawards Small Grants category

QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS



The Horsham & District Community Partnership is the group responsible for the District's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Our organisation's involvement is based around the Horsham District Community Strategy strand of Facilities and Services for Younger People in addition to our recent participation in the Horsham District Play Strategy with consultation due to finish in July 2007. Our local role in providing children's play and recreation provision for all abilities across the District and our participation in various local initiatives was recognised with "Best Community Organisation" for 2006 awarded jointly between Horsham DC and West Sussex County Times.



The OFSTED National Standards cover fourteen areas of the setting including play and care, health and safety, special needs, equal opportunities and transportation. All of our relevant policies are subject to constant review and amended in line with the standards and updated guidance, based on the five main outcomes set out in the "Every Child Matters" programme. Our "Grasshoppers" setting achieved a "Satisfactory" report in 2006 praising the dedication of the volunteers assisting the play activities, as all of the children participating require some form of additional support.



MAKE SPACE is an initiative facilitated by 4Children designed to transform opportunities for 11-16 year olds out of school. The campaign aims to work in partnership with national and local government, youth agencies, charities and other organisations. It seeks to build on the best of current provision and practice to create a new generation of clubs. "Outburst" has achieved the MAKE SPACE core criteria offering social opportunities, activities and development for young people with provision of chill-out, activity and quiet spaces, or access to these facilities, within a safe and appropriate environment. Activities are conducted in an inclusive manner, irrespective of ability and skills, to provide something for all our youngsters who need additional support to enjoy and participate in.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking the Board of Trustees for their work and support over the last year. Unfortunately, Sue Morley will be leaving us after six years as a Trustee with Springboard Project - three of them as Chairman. Sue has been a very active member and we will miss her insight and her knowledge as a parent representative for our disability groups.

Sadly, and very recently, we have heard of the death of our Treasurer Brian Smith. Brian had been with us for four years and throughout this time he worked tirelessly for the Project. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Carol and ask her to accept our grateful thanks for everything that Brian achieved for our charity during his time with us.

The staff and volunteers have maintained a very high standard of provision for all our children and families throughout the year, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Due to contractual difficulties with Horsham Youth Centre, our holiday activity schemes have had to be located in other venues. However, Nigel is still involved in extensive negotiations with nearby Kingslea Primary School and also OFSTED to secure a stable long term setting for this important part of our work.

In accordance with the three year plan, the scope of Springboard Project's work has expanded into other areas of the County and Brighton & Hove City. We have recently acquired the operation of Sussex Face to Face, a support group for parents of newly diagnosed disabled children. This will add tremendous value by giving those families a base where they can bring their children through the amalgamation of this service with our Bunny Hoppers group. Family membership continues to expand and we are now helping almost 600 families across the range of our provision in addition to 168 families whose children belong to our five disability and additional support groups.

Thanks are due to a number of local groups and companies who have given time, money and talents to keep Springboard House and the Jubilee Leisure Garden looking so spick and span. We are committed to a policy of constant improvement within our Centre and are still working tirelessly to attain the funding needed for a new Lift which will take the children up safely to our Playroom on the first floor.

Finally, a big thank you to all our staff and volunteers, past and present, whose commitment and hard work over the last twelve months has enabled the children to have such a good time.

Cherryl Donovan
Chairman

BRIAN SMITH
17 MAY 1936 - 9 JUNE 2007

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He put his arms around you
And whispered "Come with Me"

A golden heart stopped beating
Loving hands put to rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes THE BEST

TREASURER'S REPORT

Following some extensive fundraising efforts to establish a financial base and extend our work in Mid Sussex District and Brighton & Hove, there is a reported surplus of income over expenditure for the last financial year to 5 April 2007 of £42,883, compared to the previous financial year's surplus of £15,577. Included in this surplus are grants for £11,000 received for additional projects during the 2007-8 financial year, as well as another £8,000 which is still due.

As in the previous financial year, in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005, our charity includes all grant funding for both revenue and capital projects in its income, which has the effect of increasing our reported surplus by £10,523 above the true figure of £32,360 for 2007. The layout of the accounts also conforms to the SORP 2005 requirements and the comparative figures for the year to 5 April 2006 are now displayed in the same format as this year's figures. The notes to the accounts set out an extremely detailed explanation of our charity's activities for the last financial year and are very self-explanatory.

The freehold of Springboard House, amounting to £175,000, is included in the fixed assets total but is not available in cash terms for the operation of our charity's activities. That amount therefore needs to be considered in context when considering the charity's overall reserves. However, the trustees continue to maintain our charity's cash reserves policy in covering three month's revenue expenditure.

The overall expenditure for the 2006-7 financial year is almost the same as the previously reported figure. This is due in part to the loss of three statutory grants which were discontinued during the year and we have worked extremely hard to recover those funds from other sources and maintain the status quo in financial terms. However, I am pleased to report that next financial year's funding is already well on track to expand our services across West Sussex and Brighton & Hove City.

Our funding streams from statutory sources continue to cause concern as many grant funds will be discontinued at the end of the 2007-8 financial year, including the Carers Grant and Children's Fund. The transition of public service grants into the Local Area Agreement (LAA) arrangements, that came into effect from April 2006, will be complete at the end of this financial year and new arrangements will then have to be in place based on new commissioning arrangements. The overall strategy for commissioning services through the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) in West Sussex is yet to be published, but our charity is taking an active role in campaigning both locally and nationally through the VCSEngage children's services programme to ensure that our charity's objects and ethos are not compromised. We continue to actively diversify our funding streams for this very reason so that we can carry on providing the services that our children and families use across all areas of our charity's work.

Finally, I would also like to pay tribute to the tremendous work that Brian Smith accomplished during his time with us as our Treasurer before he sadly died. Thanks to his vision and energy, we have managed to establish an excellent financial framework which will secure the foundation of our charity's work into the future. We should all be grateful for that excellent legacy and he will be greatly missed by our fellow trustees and staff.

Stewart Grant
Acting Hon Treasurer & Secretary

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

In last year's Annual Report, I spoke about an "uncertain future" and forecast that many challenges lay before us in the year ahead. Many of those sentiments have proved to be true but our organisation has managed to find its way through a difficult year with a combination of ingenuity, determination and sheer hard work. However, the challenges we have encountered have also given us a real opportunity to evaluate the services we offer to our children and families and to set ourselves a new benchmark and make them even better - that is our aim for the year ahead.

Many of the changes through the year have occurred within our Activities groups and this has given us the platform to develop and expand this vital element of our organisation's work. As mentioned in last year's Report, we have been working with the "Opportunity Playgroup" in East Grinstead to develop a broader range of activities that build on the Buddy Scheme satellite which has been operational there for two years. This includes a Saturday Club and a new base for holiday activity schemes and we are well on our way to creating the local infrastructure to make this possible. In fact, we will also be extending our Buddy Scheme and holiday activities for disabled and additional needs teenagers throughout the Mid Sussex corridor with the introduction of a new Leisure Development Co-ordinator and this role will be replicated in the Crawley and Horsham area. Both these posts will give us an improved focus on delivering recreational and leisure opportunities for those youngsters.

Another exciting opportunity recently created in the Activities groups is the acquisition of the Sussex and Brighton & Hove Face to Face organisation. Due to a number of circumstances, they were unable to continue their support to parents of newly diagnosed infants with a disability and, despite a fairly tight timescale, we were able to step in and rescue this essential service. We are also delighted that their Chair - Elaine Jackson - has been able to join our Board of Trustees. The Face to Face service will be merged in with our "Bunny Hoppers" group and another new role has been created to co-ordinate this group's activities and add the value of mentoring and support to these children's parents with a trained group of volunteers.

The whole subject of improving respite breaks to families with disabled children has now found itself on the national agenda with the creation of the "Every Disabled Child Matters" campaign. For the last two years, West Sussex County Council has also been engaged with its Members' Task Force on the same subject, which completed its final report and recommendations on 6th June. The government's 'Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families' review has agreed a funding programme of £340m to "transform the services that disabled children and their families receive". £280m of that sum will be invested in delivering a step change in short break facilities. The headline figure sounds substantial, but across the country that sum is equivalent to less than £500 per disabled child over three years, or 40,000 more short breaks in total by 2011 based on recent estimates of 700,000 children in this category across the UK. It follows that there is still much to be done both locally and nationally.

One very good piece of news - after winning the Community Organisation of the Year in the "Horsham's Best" Awards for 2006, we were awarded the Runners Up for the National Biffaward Small Grants Projects for our Jubilee Leisure Garden. This was from a total entry of 122 entries and a short list of 25 finalists. The citation mentioned the efforts made towards providing a safe and enjoyable play area for children of all abilities and the special effort made to utilise recycled and sustainable materials including the recent installation of an irrigation system using harvested rainwater. We were also delighted to receive the magnificent donation of a 2004 registered 15-seater minibus from our very good friends at the Royal & Sun Alliance group in Horsham, whose Local Charities Committee has worked tirelessly in supporting our organisation throughout the year.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Following on from ChangeUp, our organisation has also been involved in another national initiative - VCSEngage - sponsored by the DfES. This programme, which is being administered by the National Children's Bureau, is investigating the role of VCS (Voluntary & Community Sector) and how children's services will be funded by the public sector beyond 2008. The current situation will change fundamentally whereby public services or facilities will be commissioned - a very different scenario to the current arrangements where most VCS organisations have been mainly reliant on grant funding. These arrangements will undoubtedly change the landscape with our own funding and there is still a great deal of uncertainty about how future agreements will be drawn up, agreed and monitored. Based on the national consultation events held so far, Children's VCS organisations like ours have unsurprisingly expressed some concerns about whether a commissioning policy would always be entirely appropriate for the sector. There are additional concerns that the "soft touch" services typically provided by the sector could be undervalued and undermined plus the need to draw a clear distinction between a "public service" and a community led organisation - which Springboard Project certainly is.

We continue to take an active role in representing and campaigning on behalf of our membership. Our involvement includes representation on the County Council Members Task Force investigating short break respite care for disabled children, West Sussex Parent Carers Planning Group, West Sussex Children's Fund Partnership, West Sussex Transitions Planning Group, West Sussex ChangeUp Consortium, West Sussex Compact, the West Sussex Children's Trust Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEN&D) Forum, Horsham District Play Strategy Group and the national VCSEngage programme.

Our staff and volunteers have all worked extremely hard during an unpredictable year. Irrespective of all the trials and tribulations that have come their way, they have never lost sight of our primary objective - to provide the best services and facilities for our children and families that we can, based on the funding and resources at our disposal. During the last financial year our local area has lost at least five other children's charitable organisations. That we have been able to pick up and extend the services of one of them - namely Face to Face - is both testament to our own resilience and a recognition that we can never take our own future for granted.

Our future will be mapped out again shortly with a review of our three year strategy by our trustees and senior staff. Without doubt it will be our most difficult set of plans yet, but if we can surpass the ambitions we set ourselves in 2004 our organisation has much to look forward to. The coming year will probably be no easier than the last one, but there is a real sense of optimism about building for the future and improving on what we already have.

Once again, I wish to thank the Board of Trustees, our marvellous staff and - of course - the volunteers for their immense contribution during the year. I would also wish to pay tribute to Brian - our Treasurer - who is no longer with us. He provided me and our charity as a whole with some tremendous support during his time with us and I will certainly miss him tremendously. Our funders and donors also continue to play a vital role in our present and future success - we must never forget that their support makes everything that happens at Springboard Project possible.

Nigel Scott-Dickeson
Project Manager



ACTIVITY SCHEMES



It has been quite a challenging year for the Activity Schemes. The staff, volunteers and children also had to cope with some changes of venue for our holiday activity schemes, which they managed really well, considering the logistical problems involved with transporting people and equipment. However, we are working relentlessly to secure a permanent base at the local Kingslea Primary School. I am pleased to say that we have received OFSTED approval and are in the process of arranging a satisfactory agreement with their school governors.

In summer 2006 the Grasshoppers scheme was inspected by Ofsted and given a satisfactory rating in its report, which gave a very positive reflection on some of the hard work that our young volunteers and staff put into making the schemes a success.

BUNNY HOPPERS

This group meets one Sunday a month and is for families with babies or children aged under five who have been newly diagnosed as having additional needs. This group is now in its fourth year and although we are continuing to receive regular enquiries and have attracted a number of new families.

Our acquisition of Sussex Face-to-Face will enable us to provide a more dedicated and rounded service to these families and by amalgamating this service with our Bunny Hoppers group, we will be able to give them the best of both worlds - a support and mentoring service during a crucial time and a base at Springboard House with a welcoming environment and an introduction to our respite and activities schemes.

We are pleased that many of our volunteers from the Grasshoppers team come and regularly volunteer for the Sunday afternoon Bunny Hoppers sessions, so we are still able to provide a valuable 'on site' respite service for the parents who attend.

GRASSHOPPERS

This club for ages 5 - 13 formed the foundations of the Project that we see today. They meet during all school holidays, including half terms and on Saturday mornings at Springboard House.

During the school holiday activity schemes we offer a range of arts and crafts activities, off site trips to the cinema, ten pin bowling at Horsham Superbowl and storybook readings at Horsham Library.

During last Summer's holiday activity scheme, the children were able to enjoy swimming at the Pageant Leisure Club at the Cisswood House Hotel in Lower Beeding, a range of sports games with Horsham Leisure Link and a variety of exciting arts and crafts activities with Christine Skinner, including costumes made from bin bags.

In October, the children were able to enjoy the fun of the fair at the Shelley Festival in the town and take part in a treasure hunt around the grounds of Ingfield Manor School (our venue for this period). They also made some colourful 'seasonal' scary masks, wizard hats and dragon collage pictures with the assistance of our Play Co-ordinator, Nina Peate.

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

During our Christmas Holiday scheme, Linda Shoulders provided another imaginative arts and crafts session for the children creating some sparkly table decorations and Nina provided a session for the children to make Christmas cards. Unfortunately, the weather was not good for outdoor activities, but the children did have a trip out to the Horsham Super Bowl.

Spring half term brought slightly better weather, which meant the children were able to go out in small groups to use the facilities at the local park. There was a Chinese New Year theme to the arts and crafts activities and the opportunity to make and take home freshly baked cupcakes.

At Easter the warm weather gave the children plenty of opportunities to play outdoors including a fun cricket sports session facilitated by Horsham Leisure Link. There was an almost continuous session of making chocolate Easter egg nests and we were also very fortunate to have a huge donation of chocolate Easter eggs from the Radio Mercury's Easter Appeal, so all the children had a very difficult decision in choosing which one to take home with them. We were also able to make two visits to Holmbush Farm World in our new minibus, with one member of the group witnessing the birth of a new lamb!



The Grasshoppers children enjoy a range of fun and sensory experiences during the playschemes



...as well as arresting their hard working volunteers!

OUTBURST

This group is for the 13-18 year olds (the young people remain with the scheme until the April following their 19th birthday) and meets during the school holidays. It is run more like a youth club than a playscheme, allowing the young people who attend to experience greater independence and enjoy activities more appropriate to their age.

This group has been staffed by a number of different leaders throughout the year, as Katie Paddock's availability has been restricted after starting university and I also left Outburst after last summer's activities to take on my Activity Co-ordinator role. However, the group has been able to enjoy a variety of activities over the last year, including ceramic and glass painting with Christine Skinner, Halloween mobiles with Linda Shoulders, a drumming and music session and making their own fresh pizzas for lunch. There were also the usual cinema trips, visits to the coffee shops in town and the ever popular ten pin bowling. The minibus donated by Royal & Sun Alliance has proved to be a fantastic resource for the youngsters and at Easter we were able to arrange trips to the Science Centre at Hurstmonceux and an educational visit to Wakehurst Place near Ardingly.

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

We were also very fortunate to have a whole Easter 'events day' organised for Outburst by the Horsham Prince's Trust Team 33, who are a group of disadvantaged young people participating in a motivational and team building project. Everyone in the group said that they had a really good day and it was great to be able to give the Prince's Trust Team some well deserved positive feedback.



Horsham Princes Trust Team 33 are pictured here with staff and volunteers outside Horsham Superbowl and our Activities minibus after an exciting day with the Outburst youngsters

Thanks must also go to the following people and organisations who have also given a lot of their free time and/or resources to supporting our schemes and our members:

Jan English - OUTSET

Linda Shoulders

Christine Skinner

John Guest

Ed Rowe

Chris North - Freedom Through Fun / Bungle The Clown

Rachel Ruscombe-King and the Princes Trust Team 33 Horsham

Captain Kevin & Mrs Catherine Rand - Salvation Army Horsham Corps

Radio Mercury FM and Chris Oxlade

West Sussex Children's Library Service - Horsham Library

Leisure Link - Horsham District Council

Alan Setchell & the premises staff of Ingfield Manor School

Lesley Dyer & the premises staff at QEII School

Kyle Balfrey & The Pageant Health Club - Cisswood House Hotel

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

During the year we said farewell to Jane Tickner as Activities Co-ordinator and after Easter, Liz and Louise Ferran left Grasshoppers for pastures new. We thank them for their contribution throughout their time with us.

Our volunteers are one of our best and most valuable assets. Our youngest are only 13 years of age but many of them go on to be committed to the work of our schemes and become fully paid members of staff. This year the OUTSET Horsham District Leader, Jan English, has done a brilliant job of steering young volunteers from the local schools and colleges throughour door.

Activity Scheme Staff

Activity Leaders

Katie Paddock
Suzanne Bailey

Team Leaders

Caroline Ferran
Katherine Guest
Laura Murray
Hannah Wachnianin
Lisa Willsher
Luke Woodjetts

Activity Scheme Volunteers

Joanna Addinall, April Alexander, Holly Batchelor, Charlotte Bates, Laura Bartlett-Short, Laura Bilborough, Jemma Brownson, Christopher Bryant, Cara Burnett, Dan Callaghan, Michael Campbell, Peter Campbell, Emma Carlyle, Darren Courtney-Finch, Darren Cozens, Hannah Darcy, Larissa D'Cruze, Rachel Discombe, Caroline Doige, Jenny Doige, Emma Farnes, Charmane Fitch, Laura Fox, Liah Harrison, Sarah Hayes, Josie Hough, Sarah Kitchen, Tamsin Loft, April Loft, Bethany Milton, Katie Mitchell, Lucie Mitchell, James Morgan, Alistair Moule, Kelly Norton, Xavia Parry, Victoria Paterson, Alice Pierce, Madeleine Phillips, Victoria Plowman, Dorota Pondo, George Phillips, Joanne Pratt, Katherine Redmayne, Natasha Robertson, Emma Seaton, Emma Skelton, Eleanor Steele, Clair Smee, Rachel Thomas, Michaela Titherly, Rebecca Tye, Clare Uwins, Angela Uwins, Victoria Vernal, Ellen Wakefield and Daniel Woodjetts.

The parents who bring their children to the activities sessions are always extremely grateful to our activities staff and volunteers. Their help and support for such a vital facility is greatly appreciated and we look forward to welcoming them again during the year.

Jenni Royce
Activities Co-ordinator

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

BUDDIES

Our Buddy Scheme continues to provide a valuable resource for teenage youngsters with disabilities or other support needs, enabling them to access local recreational and leisure activities in their own locality. Buddies actively enables these youngsters to enjoy company and friendship from volunteers of their own age group and have a degree of choice about what activities they would like to do and when they would like to do them. The outcomes include increased self confidence, improved self-esteem, more opportunities to enjoy age related activities in a safe environment and the benefit to their parents of valuable short break respite, but in a very positive way.



Our latest intake of volunteers at the East Grinstead Buddies satellite are presented with their training certificates by Cllr Margaret Ball (left)

Such has been the success of Buddies that we have now been able to secure funding for a fourth Buddies satellite in the southern half of Mid Sussex, based at the Beacon Centre in Hassocks.

Following the launch of the East Grinstead Scheme in December 2005, we recently arranged another disco and certificate presentation for a new group of volunteers by Councillor Margaret Ball. This celebrated the award of a Mid Sussex DC Spotlight grant to help fund this valuable work with local teenagers needing additional support. DJ Paul Willison was on hand again to provide another free disco session for the evening, which was greatly appreciated. Caroline Halpin at Outset continues to provide tremendous help in recruiting volunteers from local schools in the East Grinstead area to support our Buddies work in an under resourced part of the county.

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

BUDDIES

After Easter 2007, we said farewell to Tess Ashton who was instrumental in establishing our Buddy Scheme and we wish her well for the future. Following a funding review of this service at the same time it was then decided to create two new Leisure Development Co-ordinator posts who will combine the management of both the Buddies and Outburst groups in two designated geographical areas - Crawley & Horsham and Mid Sussex. As this Report goes to press, we are recruiting for both positions which will help to provide more focus on our additional needs teenagers enabling them to enjoy an improved range of opportunities during term time and school holidays.



Our thanks go to all our partners and funders who have helped with the various schemes this year and, in particular, many thanks to all our volunteers who devote their free time to support our Buddies and ensure our youngsters are able to enjoy an excellent range of leisure opportunities.

Buddies Volunteers

Crawley : Kayleigh Clarke Steph Healey John Gailey Olivia Peter

East Grinstead: Alissa Churchland Tori Cox Amy Earl Hannah Farrant Vikki Fromow Sandro Gromen-Hayes
Jodie Lock Andy Lunn Amelia Osbon Laura Simpson Lianne Tapscott

Horsham: Jess Archer Kirsty Armour Steph Barraclough Adele Bush Hannah Darcy Laura Fox Abby Gillett
Alice Jackson April Loft Amy McChesney-Martin Beth Milton Kelly Norton Coralie Oddy
Lee Rowe Charlie Tebbs Danni Thomas

ACTIVITY SCHEMES

STEP-BY-STEP



Step-by-Step were recently involved in a Dance Concert at the Capitol Theatre in Horsham. Here the group are busy rehearsing for their performance.

Step-by-Step has been part of the Project for nearly five years and meets every Monday during term time in Cowfold from 5.30pm - 6.30 pm. They are always pleased to welcome new members and volunteers to help with the dance sessions. There are 20 youngsters who regularly attend - all needing additional support - together with a group of eager young volunteers who partner them for the hour and provide their parents a valuable but productive short respite break.

They regularly participate at a number of dancing shows which is testimony to their ability and enjoyment. Because of the success of Step-by-Step, other similar groups have been created who also collaborate to produce joint dance and musical activities or public performances which are always of the highest standard.

Step-by-Step enjoys great success under Maria Dunkley's enthusiastic leadership and a promising future is assured as they look ahead to another exciting year. The volunteers provide wonderful enjoyment for these youngsters and once again they deserve our grateful thanks and appreciation.

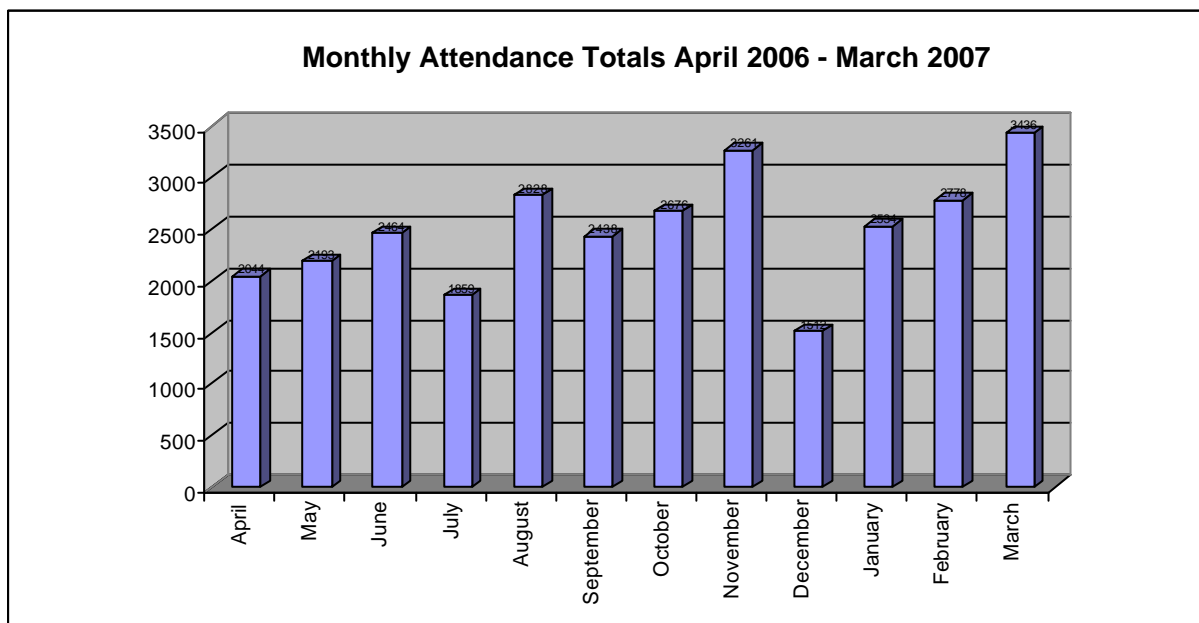
Step-by-Step's Volunteers

Sophie Skipp, Hannah Darcy, Issy Darcy,
Georgie Carr, Lisa Miller and Kirsty Towes

CHEEKY MONKEYS

The Springboard House Centre is open every week, except during the Christmas break, to all the various member groups that form the Project. "Cheeky Monkeys" is our play 'n stay membership which enables families to bring their babies, toddlers and children in during the week and enjoy all the facilities that we have to offer. The Centre is also available for children's parties on Saturdays and Sundays, so with the Grasshoppers Saturday Club and Bunny Hoppers group sessions, the Centre is often operational every day of the week. The family membership rates remain at £6 a month by standing order, or £60 per annum, which still represents very good value for the facilities in the Centre which are constantly being upgraded. Those on low income or benefits can join under the Horsham Leisure Access Card scheme on a reduced rate of £4 a month or £40 a year and organisational rates remain at £120 a year. Weekend children's party rates have also been maintained at their current levels and are always booked many months in advance.

The "Cheeky Monkeys" Family Membership continues to grow and now over 540 members are paying subscriptions either monthly or annually on our direct payment scheme. Our regular membership income helps us to plan ahead knowing that this is a dependable source of funding, having increased from £25,716 in 2006 to £29,231 in 2007. The "Gift Aid" scheme is now in its fifth year and has brought in over £10,000 from all our memberships for the last financial year. Attendance at our Centre has increased yet again - this time by 20% with the attendance figures for the financial year (April 2006 - March 2007) totalling 30,023 which is an annual increase of over 3,000.



Our play 'n stay facility is fairly unique, as it is unusual for parents to have somewhere to enjoy participating with their children rather than being a childcare setting, where they cannot experience this vital interaction. From the extensive feedback we receive, this kind of opportunity helps to develop parenting skills and the children can also enhance their play and social skills in a safe, enjoyable environment.

SPRINGBOARD TWINS & MoM's CLUB

The Springboard Twins & MoM's (Mums of Multiples - such as triplets or more) Club was formed in November 2002 when the Horsham Twins Club was brought within the Project's umbrella so that the families would be able to continue using this very valuable resource. As part of the Project, we can undertake all the administration, fundraising and membership tasks adding value with outings and special sessions.

Nina Peate - our Play Co-ordinator - continues in her role of arranging and supervising the programme of events for the Springboard Twins & MoM's Club, which is now in its fifth year. Membership is currently 42 families with twins and triplets.

The Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month alternating between mornings and afternoons with occasional visits from guest professionals who can give guidance on a range of subjects such as sleeping patterns, pre-school development, healthy eating and toddler behaviour. The Club has the support of our local Health Visitor team, who can visit the sessions and speak informally to the parents about how their children are progressing and discuss any concerns. Additional assistance for the Club is received through the national association TAMBA (Twins and Multiple Births Association) which we are affiliated to.

The parents value the opportunity to meet other twins and multiple birth families and the children enjoy a programme of regular events including music and singing, an outing to the local fire station, growing flowers and vegetables and T-Shirt painting. This summer, the Club will again be going on its annual outing to Holmbush Farm.

Like many of our memberships, families from this group are based across the county from the Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex areas.



Our friends at Horsham Fire Service once again offered the Twins Club a visit to their station to enjoy trying out their fire engines and equipment

OUR PHOTO DIARY OF THE YEAR

The Jubilee Leisure Garden is one of the Centre's most valuable assets and over the year more than £40,000 has been invested in a range of improvements including the recent addition of a sensory garden and playtrain. The Garden was one of 212 schemes nominated for the national "Biffawards" recognising community projects funded by Biffa. Our charity won the runner up spot in the Small Grants category and here is Project Manager Nigel Scott-Dickeson receiving the award certificate from Dr Mark Fishpool



"Bungle The Clown" (alias Chris North) provided a whole range of entertainment for our Activities Christmas party including this ambitious attempt to produce our very own children's symphony orchestra

During the tea interval of a Sussex vs. Lancashire one day cricket match, we were donated the funds from a mascot relay race involving a range of characters from local clubs and charities. Amongst the cast, you may be able to pick out BBC's Pudsey Bear, Lancashire's Lanky the Giraffe, East Sussex Fire Brigade's Fireman Sam, Brighton & Hove Albion's Gully and Sharky from Sussex CCC. Sharky is at the front of the group displaying the winner's silverware having claimed a rather dubious home team victory!



OUR PHOTO DIARY OF THE YEAR



Heath Lambert Insurance Services were one of many local companies offering us fundraising support through the year. One of their events included an Irish dancing session by 6 year old Harry Cornell who is pictured here with other members of the fundraising team. The money they raised helped to pay for our Jubilee Leisure Garden playtrain

On a warm but blustery summer day, we attended Horsham's "Festival of Inclusion" and Nina and Nigel - with some help from a team of volunteers from Starbucks local coffee shop - provided face painting and an opportunity for any willing children - and parents - to have a go at "Hook A Duck".



The volunteer team from EMS paid us their annual visit to paint another wall mural. After completing our football area last year with an England World Cup theme, they were given the challenge of creating a background for our new Playtrain. They decided to create our very own station - "Springboard Junction" - and the team of volunteers can be seen here celebrating in front of their masterpiece

SPRINGBOARD PROJECT ON LINE

Our website has been live since 2005 and we are very grateful to Mark Fitzgibbon from Pilot Design for his continued support in maintaining our site and helping us with updates for every membership group and facility within Springboard Project. We are also able to display news and provide downloads of important information, including this and other editions of our Annual Report.

This facility provides a vital role in publicising the Project to a wider audience including its supporters, funders and various membership groups. We continue to receive many new membership and fundraising enquiries from visitors to our site. Our Home Page is shown below and visitors can log onto:

www.springboardproject.com



PUDSEY'S PLAYROOM

Pudsey's Playroom is now in its third year and continues to be an extremely popular membership feature offering daily creative activity sessions to the children and families in our Centre.

Creative play sessions are available throughout the week with a different theme each day. Activities ranged from T-shirt painting, making kites and last summer, some World Cup flags. Each child is given a "Pudsey's Passport" to record their activity sessions and certificates are awarded for their achievements.



The children attending Pudsey's Playroom are able to take part in a range of different activities like these Junk Modelling sessions which they enjoy enormously

Our Grasshoppers group is also able to use the Playroom for their Saturday Club, which is an essential part of their activities provision. Other membership groups also benefit from the Playroom - the Twins Club have their group sessions there including musical activities, play workshops and health care visits.

BBC Children-in-Need's funding support for the Play Co-ordinator's role has been agreed for another year ensuring we are able to provide this valuable facility well into the future.

However, we still need to build the essential Lift facility between the ground floor and the Playroom. The cost for the Lift, including associated construction work, will be in the region of £85,000 and despite several applications being rejected we are continuing to actively seek out funding for this essential work. The Lift will enable us to comply with the recent Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Equality Duty legislation as well as making the Playroom more accessible to toddlers and younger children with mobility difficulties. We remain optimistic and hopefully by our next Annual Report, we will be able to share some good news about this project.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

It is with some nostalgia that I write this report, as it has been 10 years since I joined Springboard as a Project Assistant. Throughout that time, there have been many changes within the Charity itself as we respond to the increasing demands on our services and the harsh reality of reduced funding opportunities available to the voluntary sector both across the county and nationally. It is also a sad fact that after 10 years, organisations like ourselves are still in the minority. We see more and more families who rely on our facilities, because there is nobody else who can relate, respond and provide the range of community related opportunities they wish to experience.

However, in spite of all these changes and demands, there is one constant factor and that is the 'spirit' of the Springboard Project. Without the commitment and dedication of everyone here, whether employed or freely giving their time, we would not be where we are today. Our members have described our staff and volunteers as "helpful, professional, friendly and caring" and we are very fortunate in today's working climate that both our employee and volunteer turnover is so low.

All of our Project volunteers give their time freely to support our various activities and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication throughout the year:

Holly Batchelor, Morag Cameron, Tamara Dale, Luke Daly ,James Dawson (on work experience from Newick House School), James Fowler, John Guest, Mary Hampshire, Josie Hough, Christine Huckstepp, Diane Isaacs, Julie Mileham, Ed Rowe, Sharon Taylor and Fiona Tems. I would like to give a special mention to **Linda Iles** who has been volunteering since October 2002 and has contributed so much to the success of Pudsey's Playroom.

Our Board of Trustees are also volunteers and their support behind the scenes throughout the year is always greatly appreciated by staff, volunteers and family members alike.

We enjoy and appreciate the help that local organisations provide with volunteering teams during the year and their valuable assistance with our fundraising efforts. Our thanks go to **Collyers 6th Form College, EMS, Heath Lambert Insurance Services, Horsham Rotary Club, Let's Go Campaign, Novartis, Royal & Sun Alliance, Starbucks Horsham, Tanbridge House School Year 11 and Sussex County Cricket Club.** This list exemplifies how widely our volunteering net is cast and we thank everyone concerned for giving their free time and talents for our organisation.



The staff from our local Starbucks coffee shop gave us excellent support by volunteering for our "Festival of Inclusion" stand at Horsham Park in July 2006. With their help, we were able to provide a range of attractions including face painting and "Hook a Duck"



Our annual visit from the "Lets Go 2007" team (with their certificate) was once again very welcome and they all put in another sterling week- long effort painting the exterior windows, first floor office and tidying the Jubilee Leisure Garden

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of all our members I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our core staff teams who work at Springboard House and/or the Activities groups : **Nigel, Helen, Loraine, Maureen, Morag, Christine, Linda, Ann, Charlie, Cathy, Kath, Hazel and Jane, Tess, Marie, Suzanne, Liz, Louise, Katie, Katherine, Chris, Caroline, Laura, Lisa, Dan, Peter, Janine, Hannah and Luke.** We were also delighted to welcome **Nina** and **Jenni** who joined our team in 2006 as Play Co-ordinator and Activity Co-ordinator respectively.

As Springboard Project looks forward to another year, I know that our staff and volunteers will face our new challenges with the same dedication and commitment that has been and always will be the foundation of our charity. If the last decade is anything to go by, the next 10 years and beyond will certainly be interesting!

Jacqui Merridew
Project Co-ordinator

Congratulations to our Annual Award Winners in 2006

NOVARTIS CUP - FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY WORK

LISA WILLISHER

CARADON TREND SHIELD - FOR THE MOST COMMITTED HELPER

DAN WOODJETS

GRASSHOPPERS PLATE - FOR BEST NEW HELPER ON ACTIVITY SCHEMES

DAN CALLAGHAN

SPRINGBOARD CUP - FOR VOLUNTARY WORK AT SPRINGBOARD HOUSE

HOLLY BATCHELOR

BAA GATWICK CRAWLEY BUDDIES PLAQUE

OLIVIA PETER

HORSHAM BUDDIES PLATE

LAURA FOX

EAST GRINSTEAD BUDDIES CUP

ANDY LUNN

ROYAL SUN ALLIANCE SPECIAL RECOGNITION BOWL

- FOR SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPRINGBOARD PROJECT

AWARDED TO RICHARD GUEST

COMMENDATIONS ANNA COWIE BARBARA DOLAN DAVID SEALL

The Springboard Project

Did you know that...

- On average over 2,000 children use the Centre every month
- Our " Cheeky Monkey " Family Members number over 540
- Over 200 children with disabilities attend our various clubs and activities
- Nearly 35% of children using our Centre live outside Horsham District
- Springboard Project's weekly operational costs alone average £2,600
- Only 9% of our income is received from statutory funding
- Springboard Project has seven different membership groups

OUR SUPPORTERS

The Springboard Project would not be able to exist without the magnificent generosity of its funders and donors throughout the year

During the last financial year we have been able to continue investing in the Centre's facilities, extend our membership schemes into new areas of the County and sustain our core revenue costs. The Bunny Hoppers, Grasshoppers and Outburst groups continue to provide a wide range of opportunities during school holidays and weekends, with the additional outreach opportunities provided by the Buddies satellites and Step-by-Step Dance Group. Following the recent acquisition of the "Face-to-Face" charity we are widening the support provided to parents of newly diagnosed children with disabilities in West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

We have received support from all the benefactors listed below and many more besides. Without their valuable support, we would not be here.

GRANTS FROM

Awards for All	BBC Children In Need
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	Children's Fund West Sussex
Crawley Primary Care Trust	The Grocers' Charity
Horsham District Council	The Lotus Foundation
Make Space	Mid Sussex District Council
Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd	Royal & Sun Alliance Group
Saxonweald Homes Ltd	West Sussex County Council

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES ON OUR BEHALF

Barclays Bank Plc - Crawley Branch	EMS
Heath Lambert Insurance Services	KPRS
Roger & Jayne Phillips	Matthew Polak
Roffey Sports & Social Club	Rotary Club of Horsham
Royal & Sun Alliance Community Team	Rudgwick Music Festival 2006
The Shelley Arms	Southwater Children's Carol Concert
Sussex County Cricket Club	Warnham WI

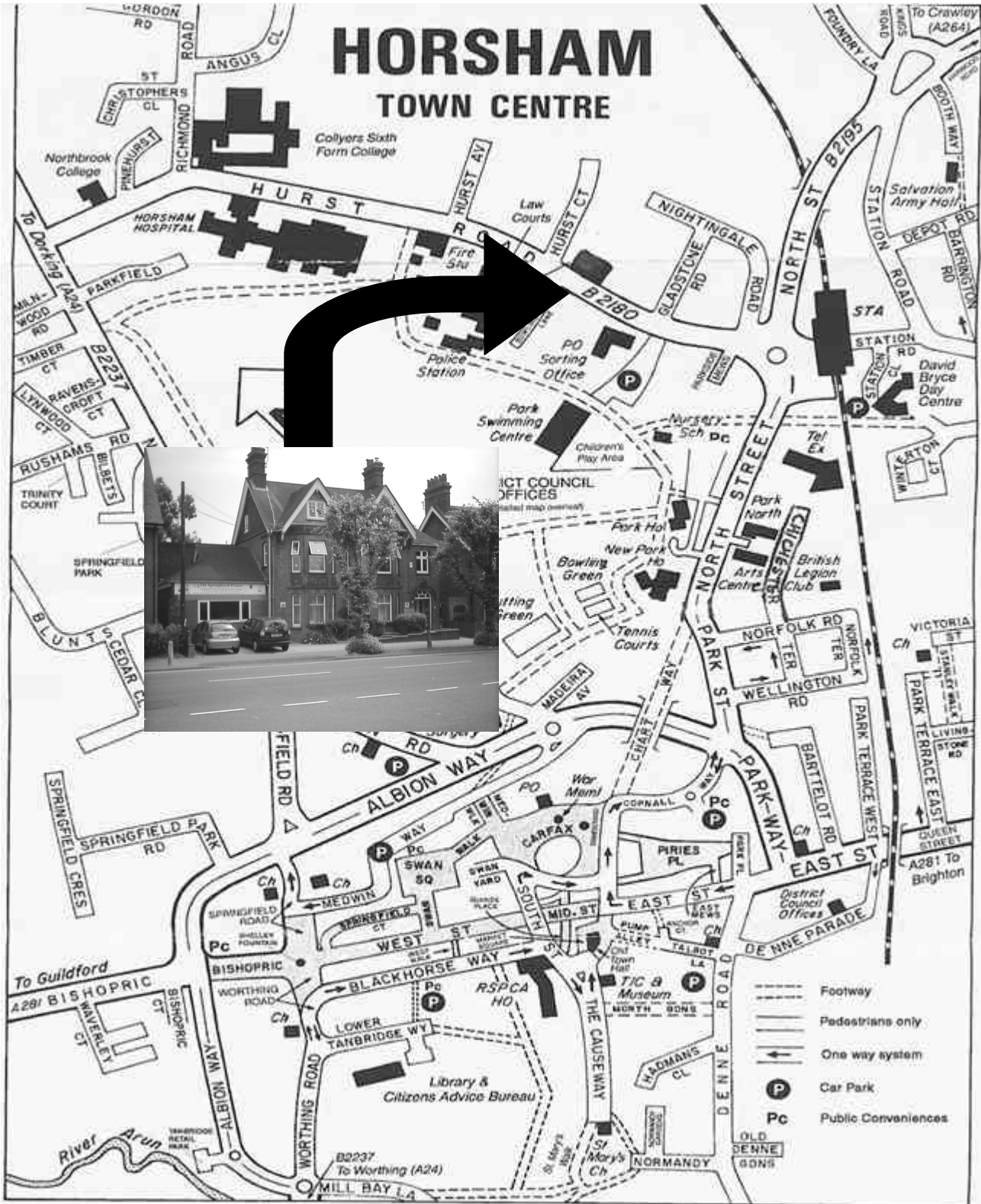
GIFTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND TALENTS IN KIND

EMS	"Let's Go" Team Horsham
Mercury FM - Easter Egg Appeal	Chris North
Novartis UK- Horsham Community Team	Pilot Design
Royal & Sun Alliance Group - Minibus	The Salvation Army - Horsham Corps
Geoff Smith and the Mascot Racers	Starbucks Horsham

...and to the many other donors all too numerous to mention on this page, some anonymous.

THANK YOU ALL - your support is greatly appreciated !

WE'RE EASY TO FIND.....



**SPRINGBOARD HOUSE 52 HURST ROAD
HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 2EP**

The Springboard Project

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended
5th April 2007

**THE COST AND WORK OF PRINTING THIS
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