

# Money raised to help soldier will now go to give good causes a lift



**MEDICATION** Ian O'Keefe was diagnosed with a brain tumour

Picture: Will Caddy (091364-2)

## Children's clubs, holiday home appeal and cancer charity benefit from money

by RUTH SCAMMELL

The News

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CHILDREN on an estate are set to benefit from money raised to help a terminally ill soldier.

Councillor Dave Smith organised an event at Gosport's Thornogate Halls last year to raise money for Sergeant Ian O'Keefe who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2008.

As reported in *The News*, the money was raised to go towards life extending drugs for Sgt O'Keefe.

But the drugs are no longer available, so the money will be divided between good causes in the area.

Cllr Smith has decided to donate the majority of the money towards a group on the Seafeld estate in Gosport who organise homework clubs and a Sunday club for the children.

Now, £2,000 will go towards organising other events in the area such as a mother and toddler group and a group for young girls making crafts and jewellery.

Pat Wing, team member of the Sunday Club, said: 'It's absolutely amazing. I look at this as a miracle. I'm so over the moon.'

'This is so needed for the area. This has been an area that needed help and it still does. For this to happen is just amazing.'

Meanwhile, the remaining money will be split. A total of £500 will go to Haslar Bosum Buddies, a charity that helps people suffering from cancer and their families.

The remaining £500 will be donated to Hannah's Holiday Home Appeal, which organises holidays for families suffering from cancer.



**TRAGEDY** Hannah Westbrook

It was set up by the family of 10-year-old Hannah Westbrook who died in 2004.

Cllr Smith said it was important that local causes benefited from the cash.

'We just felt it was Gosport based, Gosport people raised the money and Gosport people should benefit from it,' he said.

'We decided that because the Seafeld estate is in a very poor part of the town and they are struggling with money, that we would give the bulk of it to them. It's a good cause.'

'We always made it clear when we set up the event that it was never a foregone conclusion that the medication for Ian would be there and that it would otherwise go to local charities.'

'It was agreed by all who were present including Ian.'

'As long as the kids in the community benefit then that's what it's all about for me.'

'This is my town and I care passionately about it and I care about the people who live in it.'

**This is my town and I care passionately about the people who live in it**

Cllr Dave Smith

## Wildlife hospital on lookout for volunteers

A WILDLIFE hospital in Chichester has issued an urgent plea for more volunteers.

The Brent Lodge Bird and Wildlife Hospital has been left under-staffed after many volunteers have gone back to school and college after the summer holidays.

Emma Pink, 23, has been working at the hospital for 10 years.

She said: 'We urgently need volunteers to help pick up the pace and assist with the day-to-day running of the hospital, as well as volunteer ambulance drivers.'

Roles of volunteers will include either taking care of the animals at the hospital by ensuring that they are cleaned and fed regularly or taking calls to pick up injured animals and then driving them to hospital.

Those interested should be aged over 14 and can call 01243 641672.

Brent Lodge regularly takes in wildlife from an area extending more than 40 miles.

Sometimes animals are brought to the charity from as far afield as Kent, London, and the Isle of Wight.

The hospital is a registered charity which depends entirely upon voluntary help and donations.

Visit [www.brentlodge.org](http://www.brentlodge.org) to find out more or call (01243) 641672.

## Glass to go in recycling bins

RESIDENTS in the Chichester district will soon be able to recycle glass items in their recycling bins.

Councillors have voted to approve the scheme which will mean glass bottles and jars will now be accepted in burgundy recycling bins, along with other recyclable items like newspapers and plastic bottles.

The new scheme will allow most of the existing glass bottle banks to be scrapped - making savings of more than £100,000 for Chichester District Council.

The scheme will start from early 2011.

Cllr John Connor, in charge of environment at Chichester council, said: 'The introduction of glass recycling in the burgundy bin will mean that everyone can do even more to ensure they do their bit for the environment.'

## Lido has its annual meeting

A TRUST set up to breathe new life into one of Portsmouth's best-loved attractions holds its first annual meeting this month.

The Hilsea Lido Pool for the People Trust will review its

work and outline future plans for the pools on September 20.

The 7pm meeting is open to everyone and will be held in the Blue Lagoon function rooms at the lido.

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