



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Message from our Patron Jane Benson

"I am enormously proud of being Patron of Andover Young Carers. It is enthusiastically run and there can be few more important challenges than those that have an impact on future generations of this country."

2022 has been a very busy year for AYC with lots of young carers joining us at the Bungalow, staff changes, a new website and some great activities and outings. As Christmas approaches, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your support

We have welcomed so many young carers into the service. We have received over 60 referrals for young carers over the last year and have helped them to settle in our schools' groups, After School Clubs and enjoy our trips and activities. All of the young carers groups have had the opportunity to go out and about for a trip and activity this year, including Flip Out, Harmony Woods, Marwell Zoo and Pizza Hut. We have run 4 Exploration programmes helping young carers learn more about keeping themselves well as a young carer and how to cope with their challenges. We have also been focussing on mental health and well-being alongside these activities, which is so important in these challenging times.

Our Family Fun Day returned in August, attended by lots of young carers and their families, alongside volunteers, the Management Committee and team. We had a lots of fun activities, food, games and more, the weather was great. A day enjoyed by everyone.





We launched our new look website this year, which now includes a Virtual Bungalow, an online version of the Bungalow. The idea was developed by Nik to ensure that Young Carers can access vital information even if they can't be there in person. Young Carers will be able to find out about Club news, what's on the menu, activities as well as other useful resources. We are trialling this over the coming months with each group.

This year has also seen more changes at the Bungalow with familiar faces leaving for new opportunities and new faces becoming part of the team. Grace joined us in January as our Administrator and we have recently welcomed Sarah as our new Activities Worker. We are also delighted to welcome back Deirdre who returns to AYC in a new role as Co-ordinator. Sally continues as one of our Support Workers and Ali as our Head of Fundraising and Communications.

These changes have meant some goodbyes. We were sad to say goodbye to Laura, Support Worker, and Nicole, Activities Worker. They both worked so well with the children and young people we support. We are also really sad to say goodbye to Nik, our Transition and Support Worker, who is leaving to complete his studies. After 11 years at AYC, he will be missed by us all.

During the year we have been fortunate to gain funding from a number of trusts and foundations, including UK Youth, BBC Children in Need and Garfield Weston, as well as donations from many wonderful individuals and organisations. Andover Football Club and Sharon Wiles Estate Agent became new corporate supporters. This support is vital for our work. Thank you so much.

One of the projects we are fundraising for is to improve the play equipment in our garden space. The young carers chose an in-ground trampoline and a nest swing which will cost £11,086.

We also couldn't do what we do without our amazing team of volunteers who ensure the young carers have a home cooked meal, play games and activities, drive the minibus, and tend the garden, as well as our dedicated trustees who manage and lead the work at AYC. I continue to be grateful and appreciate all their hard work and commitment.

We would like to thank you all for your support during 2022. Without our volunteers, supporters, donors, funders and many others, we would not be able to do the work we do to support the amazing young carers.

Amanda, the Team and the Management Committee

Everyone at Andover Young Carers wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

