

# Summer Events Report 2014

## Introduction

This report goes into depth and detail about what our Club has done throughout the summer and the events we have attended. All of these events were supported by our valued volunteers and we send a special thank you to them for their hard work.

## The Sensory Tree Fun Day – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014

The Sensory Tree are a local charity set up to help children with special needs, the location of the event was at Southwater Junior School and the day included fun things for the children to do. Activities on offer included decorating cupcakes and bouncy castles. Our stand was free of charge since we offered our assistance in the setting up and dismantling of the event.

On our display we had a mock up incident which consisted of aids and skis. As well as having many of the RLSS Drowning Prevention Week (DPW) materials we had some of our own leaflets to try and promote the Club in Southwater. In addition to these materials we had experiments which highlighted the difficulty of getting out of quick sand and what happens to muscles when they come in contact with ice cold water.

Throughout the day we were selling DPW shopping trolley key rings which were bought from the RLSS and sold at a profit. Thanks to Dean Wright we were able to sell 32 of these which gave us a £10 profit which is going towards new equipment for the Club members to use.



The stand



The team

We had 9 volunteers who came and assisted in running the stand they were; James, Lee, Jon, Megan, Ciaran, David, Dean, Abbie and Kathryn. Throughout the day they were using the manikins and displaying their CPR skills to passers-by, as well as highlighting the ongoing drowning problem in the UK.

## Millais School Presentations – Week of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Throughout the week James and Jon supported by other members presented to well over 1000 girls and drew attention to how they can keep safe by the water this summer. The presentation started with the RLSS 'filling up' film which shows a boy re-telling a story about him and his friends by the river. The ending of this video displays the message of 'don't get in, you might not get out' which is a hard hitting message but highlights the drowning problem well.

James and Jon also went on to talk about some drowning statistics in the UK and used real life objects to compare the amount of people that are affected by drowning each year. The

presentation ended with students learning about the SAFE code and the different meanings of beach flags.

As well as these presentations we managed to set up a display stand in the school hall where students could look over the things they had been taught, as well as pick up leaflets about joining the Club.

These assemblies attracted around 8 new members but most importantly drew attention to the need of being safe and sensible around water.



James presenting to Year 7

## Swan Walk Shopping Centre – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

As part of the Drowning Prevention Week (DPW) which is the annual campaign by the RLSS to reduce the amount of drownings, our Club organized a stand to promote both DPW and the work of our Club. The DPW packs that we had been supplied with by the RLSS contained balloons and on this day we must have given away in the region of 250 balloons which in turn spread the word about the campaign.

As this event was inside we had the use of power, we set up a monitor and laptop and were showing the 'filling up' film and an animation provided by the RLSS as well as a homemade video with some drowning facts included.

Throughout the day we were giving out SAFE leaflets and leaflets about joining our Club, but also thanks to Lee Wright we have been signed up to Recycle 4 Charity which means members of the public or the Club can recycle their inkjet printer cartridge and generate money for us. These free post envelopes were given out by Lee in an attempt to raise funds towards our new equipment.

Throughout the day Megan Holms educated passers-by in CPR techniques as well as using the AED trainer the Club has. This attracted various adults and children to look at the stand and enquired about baby save courses.

Again the Club was selling DPW key rings and also collecting money towards our new equipment. On the day we raised just over £50 which is going to be a great help.

We were helped by an army of 11 volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help us they were: James, Jon, Lee, David, Megan, Abbie, Nina, Becky, Amber, Rachael and Emily.





# Horsham Life Saving Club



The Teams

## Tanbridge House School Presentations – Week of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014

After the success at Millais school James contacted Tanbridge to see if we could repeat the session we did at Millais. This took the same format as the one at Millais but emphasized on a range of drowning statistics as well as showing the 'filling up' film. Tanbridge wasn't as successful on membership recruitment as Millais however James presented to well over 1000 pupils raising awareness of the ongoing issue facing young people.

James was offered the opportunity to chat to next year's GCSE PE students and offer them Life Saving as an option for one of the 4 sports they have to choose. He spoke to 60 keen PE students about what Life Saving can offer them and how their syllabus coincides with the Survive and Save award scheme.



## Sparks in the Park – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

This was a Horsham District Council organized event at which local clubs, services and emergency services come together and engage with the public. This well attended event was the last we attended during the summer and it was true to say it was our best yet. Having spotted we weren't in the best location just before the event kicked off we changed spaces. By doing this we were located more in the centre and had members of the public passing our stand.

We had a rope throw contest in which members of the public could participate and win free paintballing, the winning score was 105. Due to the extra room we had we were able to space out our stand and include even more information than we had before. We handed out 100

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Horsham Life Saving Club is a registered club affiliated to 'lifesavers' – The Royal Life Saving Society & RLSS Sussex Branch



'Save a Baby's Life' leaflets which encourage people to come to the Club and learn the skills to save a baby's life.

The event was helped by a strong team of 7 volunteers who were: James, Jon, Megan, Alex, Abbie, Kathryn and Joe.



The Stand

## Water Safety Sessions- May/June

With DPW approaching David arranged two water safety talks with students at Summerlea Primary School in Rushington. He converted the classroom in to the shore and the sea then the two classes of thirty students acted out a series of scenes to highlight what not to do by the water this summer. David pointed out things that were unsafe and held a discussion after to cement the message.

Each student left with a pack which included a SAFE code leaflet and copies of 'Spot the Dangers' sheets. Teachers were also left with important information which was in the form of posters. These posters were then displayed in the windows of the classrooms so parents and the other children would be able to read them and be safer over the summer.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running David also ran a similar session for a small number of youngsters with the Pilots Youth Group at St Andrews Church in Rustington. It was encouraging that the youngsters had all participated last year and had remembered much of what we'd gone through then. They also left with a pack containing the important information on staying safe this summer.

## The Future

Next year we hope to attend Sparks in the Park and Swan Walk to continue to raise awareness of the drowning problem in the UK and also raise the profile of the Club and our work.

## Conclusion

Having embraced promotion for the first time we have learnt many different things and how to best engage with the public. Across the 5 events we have reached approximately 13,000 people across all age ranges in the community which is a huge amount.

It's something I feel all volunteers enjoyed doing and participating in and I would personally like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work.

James Cossons  
Special Projects Coordinator