



# Newsletter

## AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Golden Lion Children's Trust newsletter. Following an introduction at a Gatwick Diamond Business members meeting, the team at Mint Creative kindly offered to help us update the GLCT Newsletter. We're thrilled with the new and improved style, we hope you are too.

### So what have the Golden Lion Children's Trust done in the past twelve months?

Helped by so many people, the GLCT arranged 56 projects in twelve months and this edition of the newsletter gives just a flavour of some of those projects. Without such a wide variety of effort and support we wouldn't be able to do so much for so many children with special needs and disadvantaged young people.

To everyone involved in any way to help the Golden Lion Children's Trust, thank you from us all. You are the reason the GLCT can continue as it does.

**Lynda Guy** Chairman Golden Lion Children's Trust





## Tulleys Farm

Always a popular venue with families, GLCT has regularly arranged visits to the Pumpkin Patch and Spookfest afternoons in the autumn, and also to the Big Hatch Easter Fun. A group of 30 had fun at the Pumpkin Patch activities in Autumn 2014.

This year 70 children and adults enjoyed an egg-citing afternoon. After collecting their activity books for the 'egg and bunny hunt' they took a wagon ride; barrel ride; watched the puppet show; saw baby animals; listened to the Singing Chickens, and met a giant bunny with Scuffles the Scarecrow.

In addition each child was able to choose an Easter egg, generously donated by staff and customers of Gatwick Manor Hotel, which was an egg-tra special treat to end the afternoon for every one of the GLCT guests.



## Llama Park

Two groups of 13 children plus adults from Manor Green Primary visited the Llama Park, Ashdown Forest this summer.

It was a chance for them to see horses, donkeys, pigs, sheep, goats, ducks, chickens and peacocks in close proximity, as well as being able to feed a llama.

For many children seeing the animals in such a tranquil setting is a first. The picnic area with assorted play equipment including a large bouncy castle, made this an ideal venue for children with special needs to relax and enjoy stimulating play.

*"We have never seen the children interact with their peers so well and be so stimulated in an out-of-school environment"*

SW, Class Teacher



LARRY BRAY PHOTOGRAPHY



LARRY BRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

## Fundraising

As an independent charity, fundraising for the Golden Lion Children's Trust is vital. These projects are an excellent way to engage with people and explain the work of the charity. Thank you to everyone who invites us to their events; to all the helpers who make these projects work; and to all of you who join in the fun and generously donate to the GLCT.



CRAWLEY FOLK AND BEER FESTIVAL



NEWICK BONFIRE PARADE



TILGATE PARK TREASURE HUNT



SPORTING BEARS



VINES BMW GOLF DAY



MORRISONS, CRAWLEY



SPORTING BEARS



SPORTING BEARS



TILGATE FOREST GOLF DAY



BARCLAYS BANKING HALL, CRAWLEY



SPARKS IN THE PARK, HORSHAM



SPARKS IN THE PARK, HORSHAM



WORTHING FIRE STATION OPEN DAY



BARCLAYS BANKING HALL, CRAWLEY

**Did you know you can help GLCT fundraise without leaving home?**

**Do you shop on-line?**

Just click on [www.easypfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easypfundraising.org.uk) and follow the instructions. Do this each time you shop and retailers send the GLCT a donation. Thank you if you would help GLCT this way.



## How businesses with CSR policies help Golden Lion Children's Trust

Corporate Social Responsibility Policies encourage involvement with local organisations. GLCT are grateful to benefit from the support of certain businesses this way. Our thanks to you all, who help us in addition to carrying out your normal work.

### Barclays Bank, Crawley

**Opportunities for GLCT to make collections working from business premises not only raise funds and are the chance to talk to the public about the work of the charity, but also are a time to talk to employees.**

Staff at Barclays Bank, Crawley are just one such team who as a result of GLCT collecting in their banking hall have raised funds themselves to donate toys at Christmas, etc, and some now help on projects in their own time.

### BDO Gatwick office

**BDO Gatwick kindly agreed to help GLCT 'blitz' one of our storage facilities as well as generously donating plastic storage boxes to make life more dust-free.**

The clearing of rubbish, cleaning and stock-take was carried out with a great deal of enthusiasm and good humour in spite of the rain. Thank you BDO – we really are grateful.

### PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Golden Lion Children's Trust continues to be grateful for the support received from PwC at different times.**

In January local families supported by GLCT were guests of PwC when their own pantomime company performed 'Dick Whittington' at the Peacock Theatre, Holborn. For many travelling by coach through London was just as much a 'first' as enjoying the show.

In May GLCT were chosen as one of the local charities to be supported by the staff of the Gatwick office as part of PwC's 'One Firm, One Day' project. 33 PwC volunteers spent the day helping staff with 95 children from six special needs schools from Sussex. Drusillas Park is advertised as 'no ordinary zoo' and at the end of a very tiring day, everyone agreed this is certainly the case. A great day for children and adults alike.

*"A sincere and warm thank you for a truly special day out to Drusillas in May. Trips like this are so valuable to our pupils. Both staff and children thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the day and the two volunteers that helped us were great!"*

LC, Head of Language Unit,  
Wallands Community Primary School, Lewes



## Titan's Fundraising Fortnight 2014



Local business Titan, based at Salfords, took their Fundraising Fortnight 2014 to a new level when they supported Golden Lion Children's Trust as part of their CSR commitment. These fantastic efforts to raise sponsor money enabled Golden Lion Children's Trust to arrange visits to 'The Railway Children' and two tours of Wembley Stadium.

*"Money-raising activities included a 280 mile sponsored bike ride; hot breakfasts delivered to people's desks; a highly contested bake-off; car washes; an ice-bath challenge; head and eye-brow shaving; leg and chest waxing; dance lessons; and a 'Gunge the Manager' competition featuring no fewer than 85 gallons of black gunge and 20 bags of feathers; plus an attempt to beat the Guinness Book of Records challenge for the number of Jaffa cakes eaten in 1 minute!"*





## Merlin's Magic Wand

Over 200 children from nine special schools have enjoyed visits to Merlin Entertainments attractions in the past year thanks to the generosity of Merlin's Magic Wand, a charity that delivers magical experiences for seriously ill, disabled and disadvantaged children.

The GLCT took groups to Chessington World of Adventures Resort; LEGOLAND Windsor Resort; the Coca-Cola London Eye and SEA LIFE, London; SEA LIFE Brighton and Thorpe Park Resort.

Most of the pupils would not usually have had such opportunities

and for children with special needs such experiences increase their self-confidence, as well as allowing them a huge amount of fun. Thank you to everyone at Merlin's Magic Wand - all your GLCT guests had such wonderful times.



*"Thanks once again for the wonderful trip to LEGOLAND. All staff are in complete agreement that the trip was popular with staff and students. Everyone enjoyed the day; it was well organised; fast track system was appreciated; GLCT volunteers were very supportive; although not all rides were accessible for wheelchair users in school, those pupils enjoyed the LEGOLAND experience. Things that didn't go well? There weren't any! Thank you to all GLCT for planning and arranging the trip – TERRIFIC"*

Dep HT, Grove Park Senior School, Crowborough



## Letters from pupils on the trips

"Thank you sooo much for funding our trip to Thorpe Park, it was the first time I've been there and I loved it, I had a fantastic day!  
I went on the Depth Charge ride first – it's a 40 foot 'super slide' with two flat bumps in it – it was actually quite fast when I went on it and it made my stomach flip haha! It was kind of scary when I first got into the dingy because I sat in it and the people pressed a button and a little ramp lifted me up and then released me and I went down the slide really fast – it was scary but really fun!"

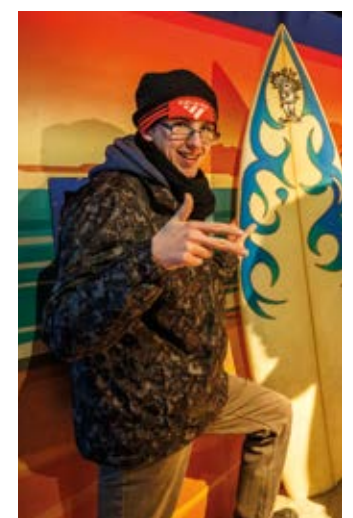


**I was on this row**

The next ride I went on was called Storm Surge and I think it was my favourite ride! It's a 64 foot multi-coloured slide and I sat in a round life boat with my friends and like Depth Charge it's slow going up then it's really fast on the slide down! The boat twists and turns all the time and it also has a bumpy slide bit at the end – I was facing backwards at the time so that bit was scary as I felt like I was falling out – but I loved it, I especially loved how fast we went down the slide and the wind rushing past us. I loved the colours of the slide too.



I went on the bumper cars too in the Angry Birds Land and it was hilarious!! I had Tony with me and he was really nice, even when I made the car spin around in circles for ages haha! It was super fun!"



*"Feedback from staff and students at Thorpe Park has been universally positive, especially commenting about the brilliant volunteers. How engaged and understanding they were. As ever there are some great anecdotes – seeing one young man D going on all the big rides was amazing and surprised everyone. The fast track system was excellent apart from one member of staff having to go on 5 consecutive rides that necessitated 1:1. Thank you so much for organising this trip."*

HT, Manor Green College

Dear Lynda

Thank you for setting up for us to go to Thorpe Park I had a BLAST!!! I went on my first EVER Rollercoaster and I loved it!!! I have always been scared of going on rollercoasters but going helped me get over my fears of them funny enough my favourite was colossus even though at some points it felt like I was going to fall off ☹ and X the best thing about X was it did not go upside down and the lights and music it was GREAT!!! I enjoyed it so much that I remember all the names of the rides ☺ for example (Saw, colossus, storm surge, stealth, tidal wave, ECT). Also please give a big thank you to the other golden lions for me

**To donate to Merlin's Magic Wand go to their [JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/merlinsmagicwand) page:**

[www.justgiving.com/merlinsmagicwand](https://www.justgiving.com/merlinsmagicwand)  
or text WANDOO £5 to 70070 to donate to Merlin's Magic Wand Fun Festival and make a difference today.



# Bluebell Railway 'Santa Special'

Over 250 pupils and staff from nine special needs schools and units had a wonderful pre-Christmas treat spending a morning on the Santa Special Bluebell Railway 2014.

**Guests were entertained from the time they arrived and throughout their visit.**

For example in addition to a strolling musician, clown, hand-painter and the GLCT panda so many others gave their time to help, including the High Sheriff of West Sussex Jonathan Lucas and his wife Caroline together with various business partners and members of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

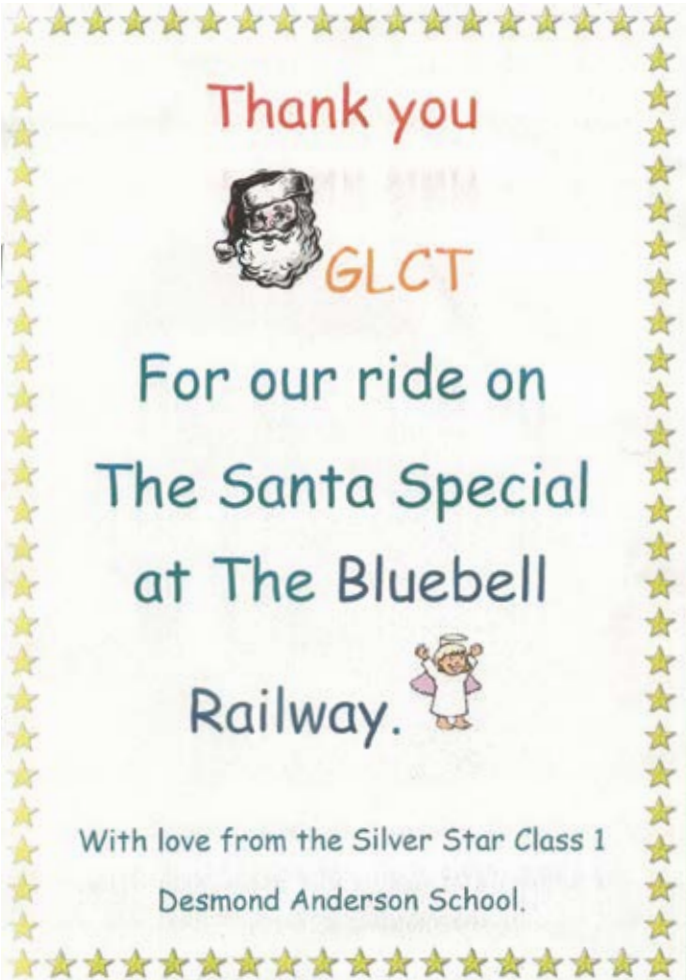
And of course, let's not forget Santa himself with his elves strolling through the train handing a gift to every child.

Everyone supports the GLCT in so many ways throughout the year, making projects like this possible for so many children who often don't have much to celebrate at Christmas.

This annual GLCT favourite was made possible through the generous support of Sussex Community Foundation and Gatwick Airport Community Trust. The smiles show how much the event means to the children.

*"The group who spent the morning on the Bluebell Railway had a fantastic time! Thank you so much for that. It is great to be involved with GLCT again."*

HT, Hazel Court School





## Christmas Treats, Old and New

### 'The Railway Children' Kings Cross Theatre



Thanks to Titan's Fundraising Fortnight GLCT were able to take a group of 50 to a matinee performance of this wonderful story.

The temporary theatre was constructed in an actual railway siding. There was an additional surprise at the end of the first act when a real steam engine slowly puffed its way in and came to a halt in front of the audience, who were sitting either side of the line.

*"Thank you very much for giving our children this opportunity – we all absolutely appreciate it and so do our families"*  
HT, Harbour Primary School, Newhaven

### Ice Shows

Children always enjoy the spectacle of a show on ice, and one annual GLCT favourite is the 'Holiday on Ice' at the Brighton Centre.

The colours, lighting and music together with the sheer skill of the skaters never fails to disappoint. The show often brings the comment "I wish there was a skating rink near us!" In addition this year a visit to see Russian All Stars perform 'Snow White on Ice' at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne was an exciting event for another GLCT group.

### Present Wrapping

Following the Bikers Toy Run, Santa's Little (GLCT) Helpers work hard to sort, choose, wrap and label presents individually for children.



### Christmas Eve Specials

Another first for GLCT...Titan generously donated, wrapped, labelled and stored gifts for a number of disadvantaged children as well as providing a much-needed 'sleigh'.

A team from Golden Lion Children's Trust spent Christmas Eve delivering over 70 presents to families in Crawley who otherwise may not have had many new toys.

### Motor Cycle Toy Run

Each December bikers from across Sussex support the GLCT in a very unique, colourful and generous way.

It's a noisy, happy start to the Christmas season and the staff at Gatwick Manor Hotel always help to make the bikers very welcome.



### Late Christmas Party

A Christmas treat for GLCT was having Toby, a young man who has known the charity for some time, offer to help at the traditional Late Christmas Party with providing the disco. (Jack was not his assistant for the afternoon!)



### Pantomime Visits

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without trips to a pantomime. In 2014 60 guests enjoyed either a performance of 'Peter Pan' at Hawth in Crawley or 'Sleeping Beauty' at Assembly Halls, Tunbridge Wells.

So many families invited by GLCT have never been to live theatre before, and their excitement is clear to see. One little girl and her family were so thrilled when Sleeping Beauty wished her 'Happy 7th Birthday'. But *how* did the cast know? Simply the magic of pantomime, of course.

## Education and Awareness Programmes

As part of the Golden Lion Children's Trust Education and Awareness Programme the charity works with schools as well as individual families on events through the year.

### Jim Green Memorial Competition

Annually, pupils from Manor Green College take part in this competition, specifically designed for young people with moderate special needs, and held in memory of the farmer after whom it was named.

Mr Green spent his life helping non-farming people, especially young people with special needs, to learn about the countryside. Sections of the competition start ahead of the day, such as planting bulbs in containers in the Autumn term; making a collage or an item from recycled material the term before; or baking the day before. Other tasks are worked on at the event. Whichever sections they chose to take part in, all the students enjoy competing and are always proud of each other's achievements.

### 'Two by Two'

80 Manor Green Primary children plus staff and GLCT helpers watched 'Two by Two' at Cineworld Crawley.

The story as the name suggests was based around an ark, pairs of animals and a flood but that was where the similarity with The Bible story ended.

Graphics, music and colours all interested the children as the subject had been covered in various lessons ahead of the visit. For many it was their first visit to the cinema, and the team at Cineworld made sure that it was a very enjoyable experience for all.



### Connect with Countryside Day

GLCT invited a small group from Ingfield Manor School, Five Oaks as guests at this unique event designed to show children different aspects of life in the countryside.

Each school group has a steward to guide them between the different zones at given times. Livestock; food and horticulture; wildlife and recreation; plus pony-riding demonstration, birds of prey, sheep show and a gun dog display. Artisans and experts are on hand throughout to answer questions. Children can choose whether to look at everything in the particular zone during their 40 minute visit, or whether to just enjoy one or two parts of it.

### Visit to Herstmonceux Science and Observatory Centre

50 pupils and staff from Desmond Anderson SF Unit, Tilgate and Manor Green College, Ifield spent the day learning how science can be fun, enjoying hands-on experiments both inside and outside the building.

The visit ended with a very entertaining science show, with a great deal of audience participation and laughter!



*"All students and staff enjoyed the day. It was a lovely opportunity for students of all abilities to take part in a science day. Well organised; GLCT helpers and Herstmonceux staff very helpful, students talking about the trip for the following couple of days. Thank you."*  
SC, Head of Key Stage 4, MGC

### South of England Show

Almost 100 pupils and staff from Manor Green College spent a day at the South of England Show 2015 as guests of the Golden Lion Children's Trust.

Something to interest everyone from seeing livestock to show-jumping; from admiring farm machinery to watching motor cycle displays; sampling foods or collecting give-aways from traders; and admiring floral displays planted by some of the pupils when they took part in the Jim Green Memorial Competition earlier in the year.

The GLCT are indebted to East Crawley and West Crawley CLCs for their support through the West Sussex Community Initiative Fund to help make this project possible.

*"You can see how much everyone enjoyed the day from the photos and comments from the children. Our thanks to (everyone) in the GLCT for your continued support and the wonderful opportunities that are made available to our students."*  
PA to HT, MGC

## Sports Report

Golden Lion Children's Trust arranges visits to sporting events whenever possible throughout the year. The staff at all venues do so much to make the groups welcome, and for that we are always so grateful. Thank you to everyone involved.

### Wembley Stadium

50 people made up two groups of students and staff from Woodlands Mead College Burgess Hill who enjoyed behind-the-scenes tours of Wembley Stadium Tour.

They saw the players' dressing room; the Royal Box; sat in the Press room and conducted mock interviews; ran through the players' tunnel and both groups even climbed the 107 steps from the pitch side to pose by the (replica) FA cup.



### Olympia

In December 2014 senior pupils from Hazel Court School, Eastbourne enjoyed an afternoon in a private box at the London International Horse Show, Olympia.

Billed as the 'best equestrian Christmas party' the young people, who all have experience of riding, watched both professional and amateur riders competing; the Kennel Club dog jumping Grand Prix; Ukrainian Cossack riders display team; the Shetland pony Grand National; the Metropolitan Police Activity Ride and the spectacular Grand Finale. There was even a chance to make friends with a Shetland pony foal when it visited the box. Our thanks to everyone at Olympia who made the group so welcome, and to Titan who helped to make travelling to and from the venue extra special.

### Crystal Palace

Barclays Bank invited GLCT to watch Crystal Palace v Hull City on 25th April 2015. Children from Orchard House Respite Home; some local Young Carers plus pupils from Manor Green College had a fun afternoon at Selhurst Park.

For most of the group it was their first time at a professional game – full of surprises and entertainment, including cheerleaders. For some the biggest surprise of all was seeing the eagle (Crystal Palace's mascot) outside the ground as they arrived.



### Golf

Thanks to an introduction by Vines BMW Gatwick, Calum Callan, club Director of Golf, made a very cold afternoon great fun for a class of students from Manor Green College, when he invited them to practise their golf skills at Cottesmore Golf Club, Pease Pottage.

Each member of the group was presented with a medal as a reward for their efforts.



*"A BIG THANK YOU for yesterday. The pupils and staff had a fantastic day. I met the group when they returned last night and they were buzzing after their day. Please pass on my thanks to everyone who helped to make the day so special."*

SG, HT Hazel Court School

### Crawley Town FC

Children and family members enjoyed cheering The Reds at the Checktrade Stadium while watching the game against Bristol City.

Thank you Crawley Town for making the group so welcome.

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