

NEWSLETTER

A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part in fundraising for charity in 2011. This year we chose to support four local charities; The Sheffield Children's Hospital, Weston Park Hospital, The Alzheimers Society and the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind. Gripple held various events throughout the year to help support these charities. Please read on to find out what we did.



Bag Packing at Marks and Spencer

Lesley organised two bag packing events this year, one in July the other in October. Again these proved to be a huge success and a big thank you to everyone who took part, it really does make a difference.

Fishing Auction

Thanks to Josie Oates for donating a signed fishing book and carp bait which was raffled off to the highest bidder. Josie has also been selling surplus plums from her back garden.

Busking in Barkers Pool

On two cold, wintery afternoons in November, Sheffield shoppers were treated to the sounds of Chuck aka. David Saunderson and his guitar. Chuck also gets the prize for most unique fundraising idea by organising a paper plane competition!



Jailbreak

Garry and Ben took part in the challenge to see who could escape the furthest. They made their way to the east coast raising money along the way.

Pat's Table Top Sale & Breakfast Mornings

After her success last year, Pat decided to host another table top sale and for one night only the Old West Gun Works was transformed into an Aladdins cave full of bargain goodies. Pat was also busy this year cooking up a real storm for us all in the kitchen selling her tasty cooked breakfasts.

Gripple Race Afternoon

Garry Hallat organised a family race afternoon at the Noah's Ark Inn in July this year. The afternoon was a huge success and the weather managed to stay dry (unlike Garry). Kelly, Adi, Malc, Ben and David S helped out with selling the tickets and the BBQ. Pat also set up a stall selling her delicious cakes. Overall a fantastic afternoon.



A Taste of India

Sunanina has been working hard to teach Gripple staff the art of Indian dance with her weekly Friday afternoon lessons. Then back in July this year we were treated to 'A taste of Mumbai'. Sunaina, along with her parents served up traditional homemade Indian burgers to hungry workers.

Half Marathon

Liam bravely took on the challenge of running the Robin Hood half marathon in Nottingham, which he successfully completed thanks in part to his secret stash of jelly babies!

Total amount raised £4,600

In addition to the £4,600 raised, the Gripple Charities Team has made generous donations to the four chosen charities. This included sponsoring a large Christmas snowflake displayed on the outside of the Sheffield Children's Hospital and a Christmas Carol Concert at Sheffield Cathedral for the Alzheimers Society.



Gripple Charity goes Global



Nenad - Gripple Croatia

Nenad, our Regional Sales Manager for Central Europe, and his family raise money for a charity in Croatia that supports abandoned and orphaned children. Nenad and his family make wonderful ceramic angels and sheep which they sell for whatever price the person wishes to donate. This year they have raised over €1000.



Gripple Europe

Staff from the Gripple Europe office helped prepare meals for the French charity, Resto du Cœur. The main aim of this charity is to distribute food packages and hot meals to the poor and needy.

Gripple Europe Charities Team have also supported:

- **SOS Village Enfants:** this charity helps children who are mistreated or whose parents have passed away.
- **Obern'aide:** helps people in financial difficulty.
- **Mucoviscidose:** helping children who have cystic fibrosis.
- **Esat:** helping disabled people.

Gripple India

Apart from working hard setting up Gripple India and bringing up their young family, Shaun and Nel Khan have been busy holding monthly feedstations outside a local temple. They feed around 250 people every month, many of whom are homeless children living on the streets.



Shining Star

Pat deserves a special mention after working tirelessly to raise money for our chosen charities and in particular the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind. Pat set herself the goal of raising £1000 for this charity which will pay for two Christmas parties for children who are blind or partially sighted.

Throughout the year Pat has been extremely busy selling cakes, having breakfast mornings, and organising the Table Top evening.

As well as her individual fundraising events, Pat also took part in both bag packing sessions, one of which was to raise money for Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind.

We are pleased to say that Pat has surpassed her target of £1000 and has worked extremely hard this year and with great enthusiasm.

Thanks Pat for doing such a great job!



Here is how Gripple as a team has helped this year

- **Easter Egg Appeal** - Eggs were donated by staff for various children's charities
- **Wear it Pink Day** - Shaz organised the Wear it Pink Day raising money for Breast Cancer Research
- **Movember** - Liam, David S, Andy Gull, Andre, Chris Bell, Malcolm & Richard Taff took part in growing a 'tash to help raise money and awareness of male cancers.
- **Christmas Raffle** - Help for Heroes



The Gripple Face Gardeners



Once again we decided to support Help for Heroes, in aid of our wounded servicemen and women. The charities team purchased the raffle prizes and 100% of raffle ticket sales will go to the charity. Thanks to our champion raffle ticket sellers, Trish, Garry, Malc, Ben, Sue, Jen and Catherine.

Here are just a few of the many charities and organisations the Charities Team has supported in 2011



Skipper 'Ethel' Trust

Ethel is a purpose built canal barge fully equipped for the disabled and those with mobility difficulties. Trips are offered to disabled children and older people, especially those in residential homes. Our donation provides a day out on the Sheffield waterway for forty children and their carers.



The Ant Kids Charity, Sheffield

Ant Kids supports children in Sheffield most in need and provides them with equipment such as wheelchairs or computers to assist their personal development. Our donation will help pay for a free visit to the pantomime at the City Hall with goody bags and ice-creams!



Filey Lifeboat

Lifeboat stations rely on volunteers to provide this vital service. Many of us take holidays on the east coast and this year we decided to support Filey Lifeboat Station.

Steelers Wheelchair Basketball Team

The club has some of the world's best players and they travel worldwide which means considerable costs for people whose earning capability is often limited because of their disability. Their coach visited us at Gripple and we were impressed by how motivating he is and how proud he is of his team. Garry, Ben, Malc and Andy D all went to Northern General Spinal Unit and took part in a game with the children's team, who ran rings around them!



Supporting children in Zimbabwe

We were delighted to hear of the work of local lady Debbie, who helps a community in Zimbabwe. She has been to Zimbabwe for the last seven years and in between visits she raises money for school fees, antibiotics, books and seeds. Our donation will pay the school fees for a year for one child.

Girlguiding South Yorkshire

Their residential holiday house in Chapeltown offers access to disabled and elderly people. They have membership of 4000, 5-25 year olds from low income families who do not get family holidays or outings. We paid for a new bed at the house.

Douglas Bader Foundation

The Bader Braves support children with limb loss and other physical disabilities by offering unique experiences and improving life-skills. We have sponsored a Bader Brave child to have a flying experience, the children are given the use of a flight simulator and taken on a flight with supervised control.



Zest for Sport, Upperthorpe

This charity provides sporting opportunities for children in the area. In its first year it engaged over 850 young people. We have helped provide transport costs for a disabled volunteer to enable her to carry on with her weekly classes.

Tia Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue

The majority of greyhounds bred for racing die before their 5th birthday. This organisation provides a 'forever' home for over 200 dogs per year. We are sponsoring two dogs for twelve months.

Hunloke Community Garden, Chesterfield

The garden was set up ten years ago and is run by a group of volunteers who grow and sell their own produce. The garden is open to all ages and abilities and is a great way of bringing the community together. Our donation will go towards the cost of replacing the cabin roof.

Frecheville Creative Modelling Club

An elderly lady runs this weekly craft group for senior citizens, over half of whom are disabled. Our donation helps with the cost of materials and room hire.

Gripple staff have also been busy fundraising for other charities

Fairplay

Alex Hartley took part in a sponsored swim to raise money for Fairplay. Fairplay is a charity which offers services to children with disabilities and additional needs.

Barnsley Hospice, St Lukes Hospice & Headway

Three people from Gripple took part in this year's Sheffield Half Marathon. Mark Steeple was raising money for Barnsley Hospice, Dave Weedon ran for St Luke's Hospice and Juliet raised money for Headway, a charity supporting people affected by brain injuries.

NSPCC

Our youngest fundraiser, Adam Bentley (Paul and Fran's son) aged 3 took part in a sponsored pedal push to raise money for the NSPCC.



Cancer Research

Jasmina and Kelly both took part in the Race for Life which raises money for Cancer Research.



Thornbury Animal Sanctuary

Ewa and Kinga have been making and selling delicious salads and hot Polish meals to raise money for Thornbury Animal Sanctuary. The girls will be continuing their good work next year.

Macmillan Nurses

Garry Hallatt and Phil Hanson have been tirelessly fundraising whilst at their caravans to raise money for Macmillan Nurses, who have helped support a friend of theirs with cancer.

Amy's Retreat

Jake Lake was involved in a charity football match raising money for Amy's Retreat.

Rotherham Hospice

Toni McDonagh has once again completed the 10 mile Midnight Walk for the Rotherham Hospice.

Here is the full list of charities supported by the Gripple Charities Team in 2011

AfriCat Foundation	Gatty Memorial Hall, Ecclesfield	Sheffield Aspergers Parents Action Group
Alzheimers Society, Sheffield Branch	Girlguiding South Yorkshire	Sheffield Children's Hospital
Amy's Retreat	Gleadless Methodist Church Luncheon Club	Sheffield ME Group
Ant Kids	Greenside Court Residential Home, Rotherham	Sheffield Mind Ltd
Appletree Childcare, Grenoside	Handsworth Community Forum	Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind
ASBAH	Headway	Sheffield Steelers Wheelchair Basketball Club
Aurora Wellbeing	Heeley City Farm	Sheffield Transport Cricket Club
Barnsley Beacon Support Services	Help for Heroes	Skipper "Ethel" Trust, Sheffield
Barnsley Hospice	Hunloke Community Garden	South Yorkshire Heart Appeal
Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice	Kickstart Community Programmes Ltd	St John Ambulance South & West Yorks
Bradfield Cricket Club	Kimberworth Park Community Partnership	St Luke's Hospice
Breast Cancer Campaign	Leonard Cheshire Disability	Sunny Meadows Nursery, Sheffield
Burton Street Foundation	Lifeboat Station, Filey	Teenage Cancer Trust, Sheffield
Cadeby Main Colliery Memorial Fund	Macmillan Cancer Support	The Rotherham Hospice
Cancer Research UK	Malawi Volunteer Organisation	Thornberry Animal Sanctuary
Children's Safety Education Foundation	Manor Community Childcare Centre	Tia Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue
Christian Aid	Millers Youth Forum	Valley Community Gardens, Deepcar
City School, Sheffield	Meal Station, India (Shaun and Nel Khan)	Variety Club
Debbie Magee (work in Zimbabwe)	NSPCC	Wales Childcare Partnership
Douglas Bader Foundation	Primrose Hospice, Tyne & Wear	Weston Park Cancer Hospital
Edale Mountain Rescue	RIVA	Whirlow Hall Farm Trust
Fairplay	Save the Children	Wizz Kids, Totley
Family Action Barnsley	Sharrow Festival Committee.	Yorkshire Air Ambulance
Firshill Agewell Craft & Social Club	Shaun Bloodworth, Photography Exhibition	Zest for Sport
Frecheville Creative Modelling Club		

Merry Christmas to everyone from the Charities Team and thanks for your support