

Supporting charities with #ParksMakePlaces

From fundraising to fun days, parks continue to share stories of how they contribute to their local communities

This summer has seen a range of park events and initiatives that chime with our campaign to show how parks champion their local areas, fellow businesses and communities. From charity fundraising to inclusive activities, our members celebrate family and community.

For more stories about parks who, as long-term employers, benefit the local economy – as well as residents and visitors – see People and places on page 6.

Branch Chair leads connection with cancer charity

This year, Chris Locker, Chair of Clwyd Branch, established the branch's first Chairman's Charity connection. Something To Look Forward to provides donated experiences for families with a loved-one who has cancer, something Chris, owner of Woodlands Caravan Park, has experienced first-hand.

'Last June, I received a diagnosis of testicular cancer,' he explains. 'Since then, I've undergone surgery and forty rounds of chemotherapy. I haven't yet been given the 'all clear', but my tumour has shrunk significantly, and I'm hopeful that those reassuring words are not too far away.'

'While I was undergoing treatment, my wife found a charity called Something to Look Forward to. They offer

Below left: Chris Locker (centre, with his sons) set up the Clwyd Branch's first Chairman's Charity connection. Below right: Presenting Donna's donation cheque (from left) Chris Taylor, event organiser and fundraiser; Phil Tabiner from Kendal Caravans; Andrew and Vanda Richardson from AR Golf Events; Allan Stephens from Kendal Caravans, and Sarah Taylor, event organiser and fundraiser

free gifts and experiences – holidays, meals out, spa days, event tickets – to people and families affected by cancer.

'Because of my diagnosis, I was able to apply for a gift which provided a much-needed break from the routine of hospital visits and treatment.'

'As holiday providers, we are in a perfect position to support this charity. So far, parks in North Wales have donated £700 and over 50 nights of accommodation, plus additional gifts such as rounds of golf.'

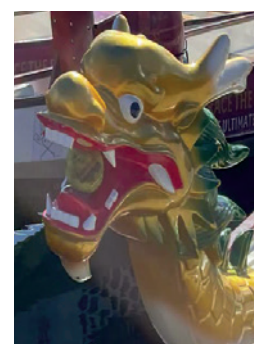
'I'm truly moved by the generosity shown by colleagues in our industry. It would be fantastic to see this support grow beyond North Wales.' Find out more about the charity at somethingtolookforwardto.org.uk.

Golfers raise thousands for children's holidays

Kendal Caravans has sponsored a local golfing event which raised thousands for a Blackpool-based charity providing free holidays for unwell children.

Teams raised £3,175 for Donna's Dream House, which will put the donation towards providing Blackpool holiday stays for children and their families.

Mark Molyneux, Managing Director of Kendal Caravans, thanked everyone who had contributed to making the



event an outstanding success, including the 40-plus players who took part, and supporting businesses.

Welsh dragons win charity boat race

In June, staff from Thornley Leisure Parks raised £1,275 for St David's Hospice Care, a charity in North Wales which delivers specialist care to adult patients with a life-limiting illness, or those in need of end-of-life care, and their families. St David's, which runs the annual event, is integral to the local community.

The winning team was another HARPA member, Lyons Pendyffryn Hall Holiday Park. This year, teams collectively raised £20,000.

A spokesperson for Lyons Pendyffryn said: 'A huge thank you to everyone who took part, supported the teams and helped raise money for St David's Hospice. Our favourite part of the Dragon Boat Race weekend was seeing owners, friends and families come together once again for a fantastic cause.'

Rosneath Castle Park's family fun day

Rosneath's annual family day is one of their biggest community events, open to the public, local holidaymakers and customers. It aims to provide an affordable and fun-filled day that brings together local families, day visitors and local businesses.

By offering free entry for adults and for children under two, the park made the event as accessible as possible, giving families an affordable day out while encouraging new visitors to discover both the park and the wider Rosneath Peninsula.

The event attracted visitors from the local area and further afield, alongside emergency services and

Parks that care

Many parks, including Holme Valley Camping and Caravan Park, are supporting The Caring Kind Project, donating holidays to provide respite to carers. Three in five people in the UK become unpaid carers at some point in their lives, making this an issue that touches almost every community.

Parks taking part in the project have spoken about the positive impact, not only for carers but for their own teams and communities.

'It's been a real pleasure welcoming carers and helping them make the most of their stay,' said Naomi Humphreys, of Holme Valley Camping and Caravan Park. 'Meeting such inspiring people and knowing their break has made a difference is incredibly rewarding for all of us.'

Your park can support the project by:

1. **Donating a break** at your park or holiday accommodation, at a time that suits you
2. **Funding a break** to help cover costs such as travel or meals
3. **Spreading the word** to others who may wish to get involved

Find out more at: harpa.org.uk/news/caring-kind-project-parks-helping-unpaid-carers-take-break

community groups who spent the day engaging with visitors and showcasing the valuable work they do within the community. One of the event's stallholders also raised money for veterinary charity, the PDSA.

Family activities included water sports, inflatables, crazy golf and fairground games, and there were local traders' and food vendors' stalls. More than just a family day out, the event helped showcase the Rosneath Peninsula, encouraged visitors to explore the local area and supported the local economy. ●

Rosneath Castle Park's annual family fun day offers brilliant, affordable family entertainment and benefits local businesses

