

## MUSK makes Macmillan £1k



UKELELE players in New Milton raised over £1,000 for charity at a busking session. Fourteen members of the Milton Ukelele Strummers Klub (MUSK) entertained shoppers at Tesco in Caird Avenue to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The group, which has its first anniversary in January, plays on the last Tuesday of every month at the Rydal Arms. It is 28 musicians strong and welcomes new members.

## Rowers pedal and joke to raise £3k for charities



MEMBERS of Christchurch Rowing Club have raised £3,000 for local charities following a comedy night and sponsored cycle.

The ride saw members and friends complete an 80-mile route around the New Forest to raise money for the Christchurch Fellowship of Churches food bank appeal, Macmillan Cancer Support and Tourettes Action. Organisers Paul Newman and Alvin Ranson also staged a comedy evening to boost the charitable fund.

Rowing club chairman Geoff Giltrap is pictured presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Tracy Blick of the Christchurch Fellowship of Churches food bank appeal.

## Players back 51-date tour by Charles for CF Trust

HIGHCLIFFE Charity Players have donated £500 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and pledged a further £600 to help one of their members complete a fundraising challenge to busk in 51 cities next year.

Member Charles Michael Duke (19), who is set to appear in the group's forthcoming pantomime 'Robin Hood', is himself a sufferer and aims to raise money throughout next year.

He has set himself the challenge of busking in 51 cities over 51 days to mark the charity's 51st anniversary. "I had planned to fund the travel and accommodation for the trip myself so I can raise as much money as possible for the trust, but soon I realised that these costs would be quite substantial," said Charles, from Hordle.

"It's really brilliant of Highcliffe Charity Players, therefore, to help sponsor my travels throughout next year."

Charles said he plans to kick his trip off in Christchurch on Valentine's Day and finish in Bournemouth around Christmas time.

He has played with HCP for the last four years, and hopes to become a professional performer one day.

Last year he directed the players' mini panto, 'Cinderella', which was seen at local holiday parks and appeared in their main panto 'Treasure Island' at the Regent Centre. He has been involved in amateur theatre in the area since he was five, and has always been determined that the life-limiting genetic condition he suffers should not hold him back.

Presenting the donations, HCP chairman Georgina Smith said: "We receive requests from various local charities but it is always nice for us to



Presentation: Georgina Smith, Charles Michael Duke, and Ivan Palmer

be able to help a cause close to our hearts.

"So when Charles wrote to HCP's committee telling us of his busking challenge for the CF Trust, we were only too pleased to be able to help."

Ivan Palmer, chairman of the East Dorset Branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, said the charity works to make a difference to the lives of people with cystic fibrosis and those who care for them.

He continued: "It receives no government funding, so every penny

donated counts towards the groundbreaking research needed to develop better treatment for the 10,000 people in the UK who are affected by this life shortening, inherited chronic illness."

Charles will be updating a Facebook page with progress reports on his busking challenge at: [www.facebook.com/CharlesMichaelDuke](http://www.facebook.com/CharlesMichaelDuke)

Anyone wishing to sponsor him can do so by visiting [www.justgiving.com/CharlesMichaelCF](http://www.justgiving.com/CharlesMichaelCF)

## Naomi House 'wins' £5.5k thanks to Brock race night



A SPECTACULAR night at the races at Brockenhurst Village Hall raised thousands of pounds for Naomi House children's hospice.

Racegoers, many dressed in top hat and tails or elegant Ascot hats, jostled with 'horses' and jockeys in the Royal Enclosure. Six members of the Royal Family were in attendance, and the 120 guests drank Pimms courtesy of The Mayflower pub, dined in grand picnic style, and betted heavily on the seven races — all sponsored by local companies.

A total of £5,500 will be donated to Naomi House, and £500 will go into the kitty for another event next year.

Tessa Tennant, one of the organisers said: "Last year we raised £4,000 for Oakhaven Hospice with our Bak to Skool Party, and we are over the moon with the amount we have raised this year. Everyone had a ball, and it's such a worthwhile cause."

"My great nephew Rollo died from cancer aged one at Naomi House, so it is a cause very dear to my heart."

## Mince pies and mulled wine to help Heartbeat



A FESTIVE event at a Brockenhurst estate agents raised £356 for a heart charity.

Staff from Spencers donned Santa's helpers outfits and served mince pies and mulled wine to their clients while collecting money for Wessex Heartbeat's High 5 Appeal, which aims to raise £500,000 to create a unit for young people with heart conditions who are treated at Southampton General Hospital.

The event was held during the village's

Christmas Lights switch-on, and collections also took place in the firm's other offices in Burley, Ringwood and Lymington.

Sales manager Lisa Killick said: "We are delighted to be supporting this appeal. One of my family members is a patient of the Wessex Cardiac Centre and is receiving ongoing treatment there, so we wanted to support the appeal as a thank you for all the care they have been given."

## Stroke survivor's marathon walk



A 77-YEAR-OLD who suffered a stroke has walked a marathon to raise over £400 for the Royal Bournemouth Hospital unit where he was cared for.

Alfio Stevanato, from Christchurch, was treated at the stroke

unit in September 2013. This September he undertook the walk, which started and ended at the Iford Bridge Pub car park, to mark the first anniversary of his stroke.

Alfio took in Avon Causeway, Christchurch and the coastal route from Hengistbury Head, raising £420. He is pictured receiving a certificate of appreciation from Lesley Kingsley from Bournemouth Hospital Charity and some of the stroke nursing team.

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