

Parents Push the Buggy Out to Help Save Vital Service

Mums and dads pushed the buggy out in Winchester on Sunday 1st August 2010 to help save a vital service threatened by lack of funds.



Photo caption: Winchester MP Steve Brine starts the Buggy Push with his daughter Emily.

Photo credit: Keith Softly

Among them was the city's new Conservative MP Steve Brine who set off in the lead but trailed in fourth in the 3 km event following a mad dash for the line. He failed to overtake 12 year old Kia Skilbeck from Scarborough who was sprinting back to hand out the bottles of water donated by Waitrose!

The big push, which also involved babies carried in slings, was followed by a 5 km fun run. Both events raised vital cash for the local branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) to fund trained NCT breastfeeding counsellors at the Lanterns Children's Centre, called BABIES, in Berewecke Road.

The push and fun run were the main elements of a family fun day at Winchester Rugby Club in Abbots Barton. Face painting, a bouncy castle and other children's activities, plus food, drink, and exciting stalls with a variety of goods all contributed more than £800 on the day. A fire engine from the city fire station in North Walls also attended but left in a hurry after getting a call out!

Seven new mums from the Winchester branch of the NCT organised the event with the help of GetFit121 & Winchester Round Table. The main sponsor JoJo Maman Bébé, a new shop that has just opened in the city, also donated £100 vouchers as a raffle prize. Many other city businesses supported the event by providing fabulous raffle prizes.



Photo Caption: The Mayor of Winchester draws the raffle. **Photo Credit:** Chris Lord

“BABIES helps new mums who are finding breastfeeding their babies challenging and need somewhere to go for support and information,” explained Anna Horgan, one of the organisers. The weekly drop-in sessions are a lifeline for so many mums.

NCT Winchester Branch Fundraiser to support BABIES* in 2010
*Babies and Breastfeeding Information Encouragement Support

“It was really good of Steve Brine and around 100 other people to take such an active part, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, Councillor Richard Izard and his wife Elaine, also spent a considerable time with us talking to many of the parents and the two BABIES counsellors before helping with the draw.”



Steve Brine MP said "I have supported this service for several years now so it was lovely to be at this event as the new local MP and help them raise some much needed funds. Susie and I enjoyed amazing support from Jane and Jennie when Emily was born so I know first-hand what an invaluable service they provide to new Mum's and Dad's. In addition to fund-raising such as this, the campaign goes on to put B.A.B.I.E.S on a long-term sustainable footing and I am doing all I can in that regard."

***Photo caption:** Winchester MP Steve Brine kicks up the dust as he races for the finish line with his daughter Emily at Sunday's buggy push to raise funds for BABIES. **Photo credit:** Keith Softly*

The event raised £3,855 with a single very generous donation of £500 handed to the NCT BABIES counsellors by The Winchester Round Table.

We are very grateful to the organisations and people who very generously contributed their time, finances and raffle prizes to make the event a success, including: The GetFit121 Team, Winchester Rugby Club, Winchester Round Table, JoJo Maman Bébé, Shentons Solicitors. And : All that Glitters, Arcana, Boots, Childhood Dreams, Dim T, Dinghams, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Guy Kremer, Gymophobics, JoJo Maman Bebe, Loch Fyne, Maddie Attenborough Photography, Olivers Babycare, Pottery Café, Pure Home, Redwood

Treatment rooms, Sainsbury's, Steve Brine MP, Sweet Emporium, Sweet Treat, The Beanstalk, The Hambledon, Waitrose, Waterstones, Whittards, Wilds Sports, The Winchester Household Waste Recycling Centre Team, Your Life Your Style, Zoo Jewellery.

We enjoyed a huge amount of publicity both before and after the event, making the front page of the Mid Hampshire Observer, pages 2 and 3 of the Hampshire Chronicle, as well as gaining column inches within the Southern Daily Echo and Winchester News Extra. All raising the profile of the excellent BABIES service within our communities!

We'll be supporting the 2011 Buggy Push Team and their event this year – we look forward to seeing you all there again too!!

The 2010 Buggy Push Team



Photo caption: The 2010 Buggy Push Team. From left to Right: Rachel Hardy, Rebecca Castle, Helen Brocklehurst, Camilla Softly, Anna Horgan, Pippa Gilbey. **Photo credit:** Yolaine Lord

NCT Winchester Branch Fundraiser to support BABIES* in 2010
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Photo Caption: Big smiles at the finish line. **Photo Credit:** Chris Lord



Photo caption: Enthusiastic participants of all ages took part! **Photo credit:** Keith Softly

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Editors Notes:

1. The NCT, the National Childbirth Trust, is the UK's leading charity on pregnancy, birth and early parenthood (www.nct.org.uk)
2. Winchester NCT Branch runs BABIES (Babies and Breastfeeding Information Encouragement Support). It is a weekly drop-in breastfeeding support group for any mum seeking support and information about breastfeeding. It is held weekly at the Lanterns Children's Centre Winchester. The drop-in sessions are open to any breastfeeding or pregnant woman in Winchester and the surrounding area and no appointment is necessary.
3. Information about Buggy Push 2011 can be found at www.buggypush.com