

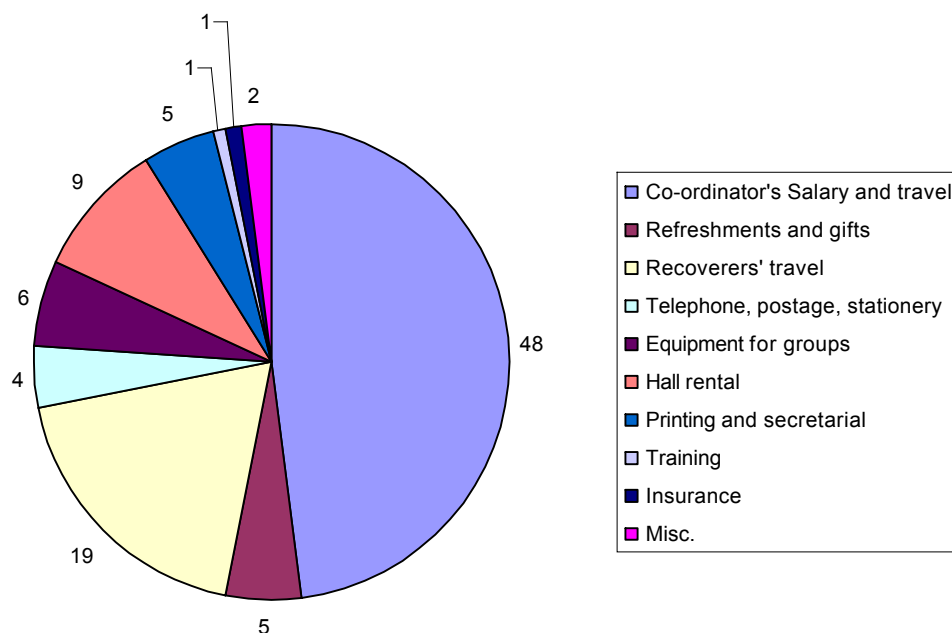
Keep Talking



City solicitor Susan Hazledine, the daughter of Beryl, a Walton volunteer, has raised almost £2,000 for TALK by canoeing 160 miles down the Thames. There were several set-backs, including the theft of a canoe (which was retrieved when spotted on Ebay!) and an accident requiring a stay in hospital. However all ended well. Susan and her friend Nicky, who was raising funds for St. Giles' Hospice, Birmingham, arrived at Weybridge on 24th August. Congratulations and thank you!

Charity Golf Day

You will by now have received notification about our proposed charity golf day on Friday 9th May 2008. If we are to be able to go ahead with it – and raise around £3,000 for TALK – we need to know for sure that we can guarantee 100 golfers. Please do your best to persuade your golfing friends to take part. Send details of the golfers by the end of November to Peter Walker:
01483 539500: peter@peteriris.freeserve.co.uk



We are often asked how our money is spent. This chart shows a percentage breakdown.

Welcome to new volunteers:

Margaret Baxter, Eileen Brister, May Cheyne, Sylvia Cope, Audrey Corden, Tricia Golding, Martin Haddon, Marianne Hearn, Jo Hopwood, Penny Hull, Vanessa Jameson, Rosemarie Juliano, Heather Karlsson, Syed Naqvi, Fiona Potter, Joanne Pritchard, Mary Walters, David Williams.

Congratulations and thanks to Karen Hamer who has been with TALK for five years.

Speaking—an experiment in rhythm at Knaphill

People who have lost the power of speech to any extent can often sing what they cannot speak. Noticing this characteristic in a number of recoverers, Chris Ridsdale-Smith thought it was worth an experiment to try choral speaking, using the power of rhythm to encourage people to speak as if they were in a choir, where everyone helps each other. Rhythm could also stimulate the memory to recall words and how to form them more easily.

The session started with basic dual time as the group spoke "My Grandfather's Clock", with some recoverers keeping the rhythm going while the verses were read and everyone joined in the chorus.

Progressing to three time the group solved the riddle of two specially prepared limericks in puzzle form, and also learnt a new poem written for TALK.

Knaphill Group said goodbye to Diana Lober at the end of the Spring term. Diana was the founder leader of the group and gave many years of valuable service, which were greatly appreciated by all who attended the group. We wish her well in the future. Ben Parker is now leading the group.

A big thank you to Verity Darby, family and friends who raised £3,657 for us at an Open House event at Verity's Oxshott home in March. This was an amazing sum to raise; thank you, Verity!

We are also very grateful to the following for their donations:

Shirley Aston, Sheila Blow, Pauline Boughton, Jane Langley, Milford Fete, East Grinstead Rotary, Godalming Rotary, Cheers, Whitley Homes Trust, Walton Church Friendship Club, Edward Lazarus, Chris Allen, Paul Brindley (London Marathon) and his sponsors, Kemp-ton Park Traders, Woking Crematorium, Robert Blundell, Arthur Chapman, everyone who helped with Guildford Street Collection, and sponsored walkers Ben Parker, Mike Hussey, Barbara Quick, Charlotte Dickinson and Heather Brown

A Thames boat trip and a themed party, both organised by the daughter of one of our volunteers, have raised over £200 for TALK. June Barnard's mother, Joyce Hales, was one of the early members of the Walton group. "When I first met Jane Langley I was all alone, with very little help," June said. "With your help, my mother can communicate so much better and has regained so much confidence that it is amazing. We have more laughs and fewer tears and frustration."

To show her gratitude June held a summer cruise on the Thames, and a ladies' night summer party with a Pink and Black theme. "The room was decorated with pink and black balloons and butterflies and the guests dressed in pink and black,"

June has offered her fundraising skills in the future and we look forward to her assistance.

Special thanks to Janet Sutton and all our volunteers at Walton for making such a good impression.

The sixth TALK Group was opened in April at the Education Centre, Ashford Hospital. Initially, we had five Recoverers but we start the autumn term with seven. At first, we had to borrow volunteers from other groups, as there was only one Ashford volunteer. However, we now have nine volunteers and look forward to finding a group leader.

The venue is excellent, with modern facilities. The manager of the Education Centre, Lynn Moran, has been extremely helpful. St. Peter's hospital press officer, Jane O'Kill, arranged for me to give an interview on BBC Southern Counties Radio (which meant getting up at 5.30 am!).

Thanks to MidasPlus, a charity that helps worthy causes in the Spelthorne area, we have funds for art equipment, word based games, stationery and musical equipment.

The group has gone from strength to strength and is exceptionally well attended each week. Some of the Recoverers were on a waiting list for this group for over a year, so they are making up for lost time.

Jane Langley

Don't forget your tickets for the Chamber Music Concert
Saturday 27th October, 7.30, St. Nicolas' Church, Guildford
£12, from Albert's Music, Chertsey Street, Guildford or Philippa Galloway 01483 234677
pm.galloway@virgin.net