

14<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## Charity Carousel Day at Somercotes Infants School

We were recently invited to help organise a Charity Carousel Day at Somercotes Infants School. The idea behind this was for the school children to vote to decide which organisation they wanted to fundraise for over the coming year.

Our Volunteer Development Worker, Hannah Curzon liaised with the school to decide which organisations to invite along on the day. They were:



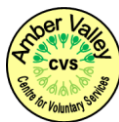
### **Somercotes Community Wellbeing**

A not for profit community group formed around the Five Pathways to Wellbeing. They operate on a totally voluntary basis for the benefit of their members and the people who live in and around Somercotes. Funding would help them purchase equipment and tools for their allotment and other groups that they run. [www.somercotescommunity.co.uk](http://www.somercotescommunity.co.uk)



### **Aquabox**

Wirksworth based charity who provides water filtration systems and essential emergency supplies to people all over the world. Funding would help them buy the filtration systems and items for an Aquabox. It costs £125 per box. [www.aquabox.org](http://www.aquabox.org)



### **Amber Valley CVS Befriending Service**

Our own project, which provides a free Befriending service to lonely and isolated people in Amber Valley. Funding would help train volunteers, provide marketing materials to promote our service and enable us to hold an annual thank you event for our Befrienders and Befriendeds. [www.avcvs.org](http://www.avcvs.org)

A representative from all of these organisations turned up, a little apprehensive about talking to a hall full of 5, 6 and 7 year olds. They weren't used to pitching to such a tough crowd. A lot hung in the balance. How were they going to touch the hearts of such young people and persuade them that they should choose their organisation to raise money for? We are pleased to say that bribery wasn't an option. No sweets or toys were used, just a lot of audience participation which seemed to win the children over.

Hannah introduced each organisation in turn and they all had 10 minutes to sell themselves. After they had all spoken, Hannah recapped each organisation to the children.

Did they want to help Vicky Jones from Somercotes Community Wellbeing who works tirelessly to support the community of Somercotes?



Did they want to support Martin Cruttenden from Aquabox and help children in countries who were getting ill from drinking dirty water?



Or did they want to help our very own Kerry Smith from Amber Valley CVS find a friend for lonely people?



All the children voted by standing next to the presenter from each organisation. After a tense few minutes of children standing next to one person then changing their minds and going to stand next to another, the head count commenced.

Hannah had the extremely important job of counting the votes. This would usually be quite simple to do, except that the children wouldn't keep still as they were so excited to find out what the outcome would be. The votes were counted and verified by a teacher who was far more qualified at counting than Hannah. The results were in. In a tense X Factor style moment, the children stamped their feet on the hall floor to create the sound of a drum roll. Hannah quietened the children down and felt pleased with her accomplishment (she always wanted to be a teacher, but somehow ended up working at Amber Valley CVS!) and asked them to stand still then she announced who the winner was. Again, with a nervous X Factor-esque pause, Hannah announced that the children had voted to support Aquabox for the coming year with their fundraising! The children applauded the winner, Martin Cruttenden from Aquabox. He was thrilled to have been chosen.

The children then went off to their classroom to hear a presentation about World War One with our Community Development and Funding Worker, Collette Watson. She asked them what they knew about War. One child answered, 'It's when dragons and snakes fight one another Miss'. Oh dear, Collette had her work cut out for her with this tough audience.



She showed them photos of the War Horse, which has connections with Somercotes and pictures of the clothes that children wore during the war; boys with shorts and long socks and girls wearing dresses, often with pinafores over the top to stop their dresses getting dirty. Collette explained that boys didn't wear long trousers until they were much older. The children gasped in shock at this.

Our Volunteer Development Team had a great afternoon out at Somercotes Infants School. It was brilliant to see the children listening attentively and engaging in the information they were given. As they were leaving, a teacher shouted up, 'Same time next year please!'

If you know a school or group that would like to hold a Charity Carousel Day, please get in touch and we would be delighted to help.