

the EDUCATION CENTRE
for children with down syndrome

Registered
Charity
No. 1115300

NEWSLETTER

Issue 5
Oct. 2006

IT'S OFFICIAL, WE'RE REGISTERED!

During the summer break the Committee were delighted to receive confirmation from the Charity Commission for England and Wales that our application for registration had been successful. For future reference our number is 1115300. Joe, Tracy and Sandy are our Trustees.

SCHOOLS OUT!

To celebrate the end of our first year we marked the occasion with a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The weather was kind, the games were fun, the singing was loud, the food was great and best of all was a very big chocolate cake with our name on it. Smiles and laughing all around, just as it should be. The teddies appeared to have enjoyed themselves. Not too sure about the mums though, they looked happy but..... exhausted!



The grown-ups enjoyed the parachute game as much as the children.

UP, UP AND AWAY!



We have lift-off!

As part of our fund-raising activities a Balloon Race was organised much to the joy of the children. Balloons in the Charity's colours, blue and yellow, were released with the aim of seeing which one travelled the furthest. The wind must have been blowing south-east on the day because most of the "returns" were from the Pickering, York, and Scarborough areas. Our £50 winner was found in Sewerby Village, Bridlington 135.3 kilometres away and was No.304 - A Galloway sold by Jennifer Carmody. The event raised £997 for our funds. Well done to all involved, particularly Sue Harston who organised the event.

DIARY DATES

We know that the run-up to Christmas can be very demanding on individuals' time, but these surely are special!

1st. December 2006. Celebration Night.

2nd. December 2006. Conference Day

Keep an eye out for further details in the Centre Bulletin and forthcoming Newsletters.

MOVING EVER FORWARD!

It's now a year since we started our Friday sessions. The babies who joined us last September are fast becoming toddlers. Three of our Friday group children have graduated onto our new Saturday group.

New, New, New?

The Committee and the Education Team are extremely excited about the introduction of our Saturday sessions. 13 children attended the first session on the 16th.September 2006.[we now have 19 children] This group will run every other Saturday from 10.00am to 12 noon at our classroom in the Education Village on Salters Lane, Darlington. The first part of the session will include specific group work activities focusing on speech and language development. This is followed by a break and parents have their own free time [tea, coffee and biscuits in the Parents Room] whilst the children will choose and serve their own snacks. For the final part of the session all the children and families participate in a whole group activity reinforcing speech and language whilst developing social skills. We are really looking forward to getting to know our new children and their families.



WE HIT THE BULLSEYE!

Sue [L] and Maggie [R] were delighted to receive a £600 cheque on behalf of the Centre from Betty Steer and the ladies of the Darlington & District Ladies Darts League. The occasion was the League's Presentation Night.

Both Sue and Maggie enjoyed a very pleasant evening stating their hostess and her friends were extremely nice and very hospitable.

We were assured it was not the "swear box" money!

CATTERICK MARKET

We had a team of collectors out on the 30th. July rattling their cans in the bright sunshine. The banter was great and people were very generous. £707.75 raised. Special thanks to Claire Masterman, Geraldine Walker, the Dunn family, the Everitt family, Val Hutchinson, Sandy and Maggie. Not forgetting Joe our Treasurer who counted and banked the money.

[Joe just loves counting money!]

RICHMOND COFFEE MORNING

A huge thanks goes to Heather, Harvey's mum, for organising such a terrific morning at Richmond Market Hall. Again a special thanks to the Everitt family, Val, Joe and Sandy for helping out on the day. Everyone who attended complimented the quality of the cakes, scones, biscuits, and the tea came in for special mention, these Yorkshire folk know how to make a great "cuppa". £331.40 raised.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our Saturday Team. Jan Littlejohn, Emma Watson [who will be with her support worker initially] and Stella who is coming as a volunteer.

DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND GIFTS

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who have helped raise money for us:

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| Co-op [Mowden] Collection can | Bakers Oven |
| Mayors Parlour [Darlington] | Elaine Stonebank |
| Rothwell Methodist Church [Leeds] | Cockerton Fisheries Collection Can |
| Richmond Coffee Morning | Darlington & District Ladies Darts League |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Sandy King (Chairperson) | 01325 465317 |
| Tracy Dunn (Secretary) | 01325 351795 |
| Joe Hutchinson (Treasurer) | 01325 300688 |
| Maggie Hart (Education Co-Ordinator) | 01325 369895 |
| Christine Toas (Parent Representative) | 07904 587942 |
| Sue Belton (Parent Representative) | 01325 300738 |
| Val Hutchinson (Fundraiser) | 01325 300688 |
| Caroline Berry | |
| Sue Harston | |