

# the EDUCATION CENTRE for children with down syndrome

Registered  
Charity

No. 1115300

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

Nov 2006

### NIGHT OF CELEBRATION AND CONFERENCE DAY

We are very much looking forward to our Night of Celebration due to be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and our Conference Day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The committee have worked very hard and hope it will be a very busy night for all involved and one we will be talking about for long time afterwards. We look forward to seeing everyone there. News on these events will be in our next newsletter in the new year.



### VISIT BY PROFESSOR SUE BUCKLEY



We have great pleasure in having Professor Sue Buckley (pictured left) and Gillian Bird, both from the Down Syndrome Educational Trust coming to see our groups on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Educational Village in Darlington. They are coming to see what we do and give advice and feedback to the Education Team and the parents. We are sure this will prove to be a memorable day for all our families involved. (Saturday group, please don't forget to come on Friday afternoon, after seeking permission from school!)

### THE LAUNCH OF OUR WEBSITE

Please visit our new and exciting website, which will be going live as from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 on [www.eccds.org.uk](http://www.eccds.org.uk)



## **VISIT BY THE MAYOR OF DARLINGTON**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November the Mayor of Darlington, Eleanor Lister visited our Friday group. The children were fascinated and enjoyed seeing her beautiful chains. We hope she enjoyed the visit as much as we enjoyed having her visit us. It was a lovely opportunity for us to update her on how busy we have been this year, as one of her nominated charities.

## **UPDATE ON SATURDAY GROUP**

The Education Team have been extremely pleased with how the Saturday sessions are now running. Due to the high demand for the group, we changed the original format



of the sessions in order to make the group sizes smaller. We were delighted



to hear from parents that this has proved to be a successful format. We thank all the families and children involved for making our Saturday mornings so fun filled.....and tiring!

## **A BIG WELCOME**

We have welcomed four new families in the last few weeks. Two to our baby group and two to our Saturday group. We hope they will be very happy with us and we look forward to getting to know them better. We also welcomed three new volunteers to the Saturday group Jenny, Katie and Margaret.

## **DSNE (DOWN SYNDROME NORTH EAST)**

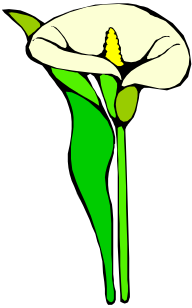
Sue Belton, one of our parent representatives organised for Rachel Joynes, Development Officer from DSNE to come and visit our Friday group to see what we do and to talk about what DSNE offer our parents. We look forward to seeing Rachel again when she comes to visit our Saturday group.

## **BAG PACK**

We are having a bag pack on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 at Sainsbury's in Darlington from 11.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. We really hope to have a great turn out of volunteers for this bag pack, as it will be very busy in the run up to Christmas. If you have an hour or two to spare to help, please contact Val on 01325 300688.



## **IN MEMORY OF BILLY**



The committee was deeply touched to be contacted through the Co-Operative Funeral Services about a family wanting to donate money in lieu of flowers for their brother Billy Holmes, who had Down Syndrome. It was accompanied by a lovely letter saying Billy had led a happy and full life and had died at the age of 59. Billy and his family are in our thoughts. Many thanks for their generosity.

## **FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS**

As Christmas is coming up, please remember us if anyone would like to contribute to a charity in lieu of Christmas cards. Every little helps!

If you have any ideas for fundraising events or would like to make a donation. Please contact Val on 01325 300688.

## **COLLECTION BOXES**

We have a number of collection boxes that are just waiting for a good home, if you have any contact with local pubs, shops, etc, please contact Sandy on 01325 464317

## **IDEAS OR STORIES**

We would like to start putting some of your ideas, stories or information into our future issues of our newsletter. If you have anything you would like to add, please contact Tracy on 01325 351795.

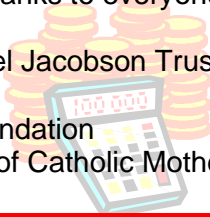


## **DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND GIFTS**

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

The Ruth and Lionel Jacobson Trust  
V A Telford  
The Accenture Foundation  
Holy Family Union of Catholic Mothers

W & MB Hart  
G & R Skidmore  
The Albert Hunt Trust  
Cummins Engines



## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Sandy King (Chairperson)	01325 465317
Tracy Dunn (Secretary)	01325 351795
Joe Hutchinson (Treasurer)	01325 300688
Maggie Hart (Education Co-Ordinator)	07806 707465
Sue Belton (Parent Representative)	07806 707466
Christine Toas (Parent Representative)	
Val Hutchinson (Fundraiser)	
Caroline Berry (Education Team)	
Sue Harston (Education Team)	

For any enquiries please ring either of the following numbers:  
07806 707465 or 07806 707466

## **HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and fun filled Christmas and New Year!

