

the **EDUCATION CENTRE**

for children with down syndrome

Registered
Charity

No. 1115300

Newsletter

Issue 8

Dec
2007

Please visit our website on www.eccds.org.uk

Darrien Wright Charity Night

Many thanks to Darrien Wright (a Strictly Dance Fever winner) for arranging a fantastic charity night for us, around £3,000 was raised.

The event took place at Darlington Football Arena an entertainment was provided by a local group, a local gospel choir and by Darrien himself and some of his friends.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves including the Mayor of Darlington. There was a huge raffle and the night concluded with a disco. Thank you Darrien for all of your hard work and your continued support.



New Staff



A huge welcome to all our new volunteers to both the Friday and Saturday groups. We are pleased to now have on board: Val Inglis, Sophie Donnelly, Sharon Masham and Rebecca Hope. Thank you for all your help and support. (This is a picture of one of our groups in action).

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Hutchinson and Penny Watson (who is one of our volunteers) for competing in the Special Olympic Games this year in



Beijing. John won 4 silvers and a bronze and Penny won a gold and four silvers. Well done to you both! Here are pictures of them both with their GB coaches.

“Now who’s a lucky boy”

Sandy, our Chairman, got a pleasant surprise on visiting his local when he discovered that Dave, the landlord, had opened a ‘malt bar’. Malt as in malt whisky! Sandy received the first cheque of £410, generated from sales of the ‘water of life’. In the future half the money raised will be coming to the Centre. Anyone who would like to donate a bottle of malt for the collection can either contact Sandy or pop it into the Model T in Fulthorpe Avenue, Darlington. Dave is delighted to help and said people who do not normally drink whisky are having a glass as it is raising funds for us. The cry is “I’ll have a tot for the tiny tots!”



Big Thanks

Many thanks to Colin and Joseph Dean for taking part in the Great North Run. Between them they raised £515 for our charity. Thank you to everyone who sponsored them and grateful thanks to Colin and Joseph. Well Done!

Also we would like to thank the Durham Teenage Caravan Club for raising £1000 for our charity. Thank you for your continued support and all your hard work.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Makaton Course – Part 2

There is going to be another Makaton Course, a follow on from the last course. This is to be held on Saturday 26th January 2008 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. For further details or to book a place, please contact Sue Belton.

Singing Hands

The popular Singing Hands are coming back to see us again on Saturday 8th March 2008. Further details will be available shortly, but if interested please keep that date free.

Celebration Night

Another date to keep free in your diary is Saturday 15th March 2008 when we will be holding another celebration night. This one will be extra special as some of our children will be doing the entertainment. Invitations will be sent out in the new year.



INTERESTING ARTICLES

Up for Reading

Up for Reading is a fun and educational sponsored reading event for schools and nurseries. It can be easily integrated within everyday literacy activities. It is a great way to encourage reading and to help raise important funds to support the work of the Down Syndrome Educational Trust. More details can be found on their website – www.up-for-reading.org



See and Learn Material

See and Learn is a programme that supports early language learning from the Down Syndrome Educational Trust. It is designed to build on the visual learning strengths of children with Down Syndrome. Although the site is currently under development; there are pilot materials to view and use. All details can be found on www.see-and-learn.org

DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND GIFTS

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



Taywood Northern Sports Social Club

Taylor Woodrew Developments
V A Everitt

Birtley Methodist Church
V A Telford (In memory of Billy Holmes)

Model T – Malt Bar

Model T – Darts Team

Co-op Mowden

Wizard Sandwiches

Model T Pub

Joseph and Colin Dean

The Clique (White Swan, Barnard Castle)

J West

D M Costgan

H Wilson

C Dunn (In memory of Ruby Upex)

Holy Family R C Church

The Mayor's Charitable Trust

Cockerton Fisheries

Wheatsheaf Pub, Darlington

Harvey Stonebank

Durham Teenage Caravan Club

Club

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)

Sue Harston (Education Team)

For any enquiries please ring either of the following numbers:

07806 707465 or 07806 707466

Please remember us if you are thinking of giving a donation to charity in lieu of Christmas cards this year.



**We wish you all a very Merry
Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

