

Farewell to Janette

We are sorry to say goodbye to Janette Waddingham who leaves us after seven years with Downright Special. Janette has been with us from the beginning, and was one of the founders of the Charity.

In addition, she has been a key figure in the teaching at Downright Special Fridays leading one of the pre-school groups.

We can never thank her enough for all her valuable efforts. She really understood the Charity, aided the Children's development, and provided great support to parents.

She made a huge contribution, not only in teaching, but also in fundraising and raising awareness of the Charity, and we will really miss her. Janette has now left to start her own garden centre in Hornsea, and we wish her a very happy future.



Jill Newton,
left, and Sarah
Mangham



GROUP NEWS

It's been a while since our last newsletter and we've had a few staff changes since then. We are delighted that Christine Jennings has volunteered to join us as a new Trustee. Christine has recently retired as Headteacher of Longhill Primary School in Hull and has a keen interest in ensuring all children of all abilities reach their full potential – something we at Downright Special strongly believe in. Christine will be working with the Lisa Bentley on the longer-term direction of Downright Special Education.

We also have three new Friday volunteers. Jill Newton, who some of you will know as mum of Toby, joined us in September to teach one of our younger age groups. Sarah Mangham also joined us last year to help with organising our Friday sessions, working with Joanna Choromanska and Sophie Potter, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Sarah Hyde (mum to Arthur) has been showing us her moves in her new role leading the morning "Activate" music and movement session.

More recently Sarah Mangham has also volunteered to take on the role of Social Secretary so you'll be hearing more from her soon about what we have planned for this year. She can be contacted on social@downrightspecial.co.uk

Next Term's Dates - May, 9th, 16th, 23rd

June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th. July 4th, 11th

Friday Visitors: May 9 - (Morning) Julie Robinson, Speech and Language Therapist

Friday, May 16 - (Morning) - Vicky Ingram, Physiotherapist from the hospital Paediatric Physiotherapy team

Friday June 27 - (Morning) - Helen Chamberlain Physiotherapist from the Community Physiotherapy team

Friday, June 27 - (Afternoon) - Julie Robinson, Speech and Language Therapist

Fundraising News - eBay shop: Did you know that Downright Special has its own eBay shop, where people can bring along unwanted goods or donations that can be sold on eBay to raise funds?

It has raised over £1,000 since being started, and is run by volunteer Louise Smith (Tino's mum). It works in the same way as a charity shop – except we sell our donations online! Good quality items such as clothing and toys can be donated, however, we are unable to accept electrical goods or items banned by eBay. To donate, please contact Louise on ebayshop@downrightspecial.co.uk.

DADS GET ON THEIR BIKES FOR DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL



NEIL'S
READY
TO GO



CHRIS IN
TRAINING

Two of our dads are currently in training for two separate Charity fundraisers for Downright Special which will test every bit of fitness, stamina, and strength.

Neil Findlay, alongside two of his friends, is cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats this summer.

Calling themselves the Midlife Cyclists, Neil, Tom Bull, and Ian Whiteley will set off on June 15, to complete the 1,007 miles epic journey.

They are asking people to sponsor them £1 for one mile, and anyone who wishes to help them can donate via www.lejog.org.uk

Also this summer, trustee Chris

Bowlas, who works at BP, at Saltend Chemicals Park, will be joined by five colleagues to take part in a relay ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The team has dubbed this 'Land's End to John O'Groats Extreme' as they're pushing themselves to form three pairs and cover the 1,000-plus miles in continuous four-hour shifts, 24-hours-a-day. They will set off on June 20 and plan to complete the route in three days.

Chris said: "The challenge in itself is going to be quite difficult and the team of six will be supported by a base campervan along with shuttle vehicles to carry the team and resources whilst they are off the bikes."

They are being supported by Keith Earle of Hull University's sports science department. The team there are offering advice on conditioning, exercise and nutrition. In addition, technical support ahead of the event is being provided by Craig Boddice of Repair2Ride.

The money raised will go to Downright Special and BP's charity of the year, Castle Hill Hospital. Veolia have provided a motorhome for the event, but help is still needed for food supplies or shopping vouchers to be used en route, bike or helmet-mounted cameras to record the feat, Garmin bicycle GPS, and a shuttle van and driver.

Follow Chris' blog at <http://lejogextreme.blogspot.co.uk>



What I wish I had known:

Gillian Bowlas, mum of Rachel, said: "I wish I'd known that having Down syndrome doesn't stop you from having a go at anything."

Downright Special Network (registered charity no. 1128178)

**Bodmin Road Church Office,
Bodmin Road, Bransholme, HU7 4HE**

Tel: (01482) 420 160

E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk

Website: www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Family Fund

The Family Fund is the UK's largest provider of grants to low-income families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people.

The Fund can help with essential items such as washing machines, fridges and clothing but can also consider grants for sensory toys, computers and much needed family breaks together.

Visit www.familyfund.org.uk/grants/who-we-help



Since May 2013, we have been supported by the HEY Smile Foundation – a local charity which provides funds, mentoring, advice and support to smaller charities, such as ours.

Smile have been attracting funding and raising awareness for us and have also been encouraging local businesses to give their ongoing support, such as Gosschalks Solicitors, The One Point and Sargent Electrical to name but a few.”

If you have any fundraising ideas or want some help with an event you are planning in support of Downright Special then Sarah Shepherdson and Andy Barber can help. Contact Sarah on fundraising@downrightspecial.co.uk or **07843 163131**

Thank you Roger

Roger Coates, Grandpa to Anya, has been raising money for Downright Special over the past couple of years.

An accomplished guest speaker, Roger has been waiving his usual fee and instead asking groups he visits to give a donation to Downright Special. This has led to a significant contribution of more than £500 to our funds, and we are very grateful, so thank you Roger.

Website & Social Media

Do not forget to follow us on Twitter @downright21, and like our page on Facebook. Parents can join the closed group DownRightSpecial and also follow us on LinkedIn.

The website is now managed by Neil Findlay and he welcomes any suggestions of news items or photos contact him at: web@downrightspecial.co.uk

Stop Press!

Freedom Activity Support Payment (FASP) 2014-2015 Applications are now being accepted for FASP for the year commencing 1 April 2014. (Note: This is for East Riding families only).

FASP is a personal budget of up to £400 which may be available to support a disabled child/young person whose additional needs prevent them from accessing age appropriate social and leisure activities.

The payment will be made in two instalments, the first being £240 and the second, after receipt of a completed monitoring form, will be £160.

Please note applications must be received by 30 June 2014 and may take up to 6 weeks to process. To be eligible for this payment the child must be 7 years old before 30 June 2014 and under 18 years of age.

Call the Freedom Activity Support Payment Team on **(01482) 396691** or e-mail fasp@eastriding.gov.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

We are at an exciting time in the charity as we start to make plans for which services we want to deliver in the future.

As part of that we would like to involve more people in running the charity and shaping its future. We are currently looking for new trustees to join the board of trustees of Downright Special. We have vacancies for a Secretary and a Parent Representative.

You don't have to be an expert - you can make a difference just by being involved. Call Gillian Bowlas on **01482 420160** or email Gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk

THANK YOU TOMMY TIPPEE !!!



Our Friday volunteer Sarah Mangham approached Tommy Tippee and told them about the poor state of our drinking cups and plates that we used at snack time on our Downright Special Fridays.

We were then very pleasantly surprised to receive a large box with 28 assorted beakers and plates for the children to use. So thank you very much Tommy Tippee for your generosity!



Many thanks to photographer, Paul Leeson Taylor who recently came to take some new photos of our Friday groups in action. These will refresh our library of images that we use in publications like our annual report and leaflets. Paul donated much of his time for free and we will be sharing his fabulous images with you in the coming weeks. Here is a sneak preview above.

Egg-cellent fun in Easter Hunt

We had a fantastic time at our Easter Egg Hunt at Sewerby Hall. There were Easter Craft activities, a visit from the Easter Bunny and enough



chocolate to keep everyone happy until Christmas! We have uploaded all the photos onto our Facebook page, so take a look, and thank you to HEY Smile Foundation for donating the chocolate eggs.

'WOW' moments

Sam Findlay, mum of Anya, recalls a couple of 'wow' moments with us:

"When we drove home from school, before Anya was six, we stopped at a roundabout. Anya suddenly pipes up from the back 'The Parkway'. I said: 'How did you know this street was called The Parkway?' She said: 'It's there' and pointed at the street sign that she had just read out!

"Another time we drove quickly past a car showroom that we had visited over a year ago and Anya said 'I go in there, I watch a show'. I couldn't work it out, then later I remembered that they had had a little kids room in there with a movie playing on a big screen and that's what she had remembered after all that time, she was only in there for ten minutes, amazing memory for places!"