

11th Edition 2021 Friends OF DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



Our most successful awareness week yet!

Down Syndrome Awareness Week is a major highlight in our calendar and gives us chance to spread the word about Down syndrome, the work we do and raise vital funds.

Despite the challenges faced during the pandemic, this year's awareness week was our best ever! More than £12,000 was raised for Downright Special and thanks go to everyone who helped to achieve this amazing total.

This includes the Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil team walking 500 miles, families who took part in the sponsored nature scavenger hunt, a beard and head shave challenge, a triathlon, a cycling challenge and one of our children covering their mum's face in a custard pie! Thanks

also to schools and nurseries who wore their 'Lots of Socks'.

Gillian Bowlas, our Charity Manager, said: "We're overwhelmed by the amount of money and awareness raised through some really innovative and interesting fundraising ideas.

"Funds raised will be used to help us continue our Friday groups, outreach work in schools, the work of our new Health Lead, social events and training. Thank you so much."

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone who got involved in Down Syndrome Awareness Week. You helped make a huge difference and raised an incredible amount of money for Downright Special.

As restrictions continue to ease, it's great that we can now run our groups in person and welcome our families once again.

We're so grateful to all our supporters who've made it possible for us to survive and thrive as a charity during the challenges of the pandemic. Your continued support really is appreciated.

**Best wishes,
Lizann Lawson
Chair of Trustees**

Face-to-face learning is back

We're delighted all of our groups will be back in person from June 11th.

Thank you to everyone who has stuck with us via online groups and learning throughout these challenging times.

While we're still being very cautious and strictly following government guidelines, it'll be great to be back together with our families. We've missed you all!



Fancy running a virtual half marathon?

We're looking for participants to enter the Virtual Humber Bridge Half Marathon and raise funds for Downright Special.

Once registered, you can run or walk the 13.1 miles in one go between June 27th and July 11th. We'd love as many people as possible to keep us in mind for this year's event and there's no minimum age to take part. Visit www.humber-half.org.uk to enter.



Welcome to our new group leader



We're delighted that Sarah Hyde is joining us on June 18th as a Group Leader, delivering one of our Friday morning sessions.

Sarah is well known to our charity having previously held the role of Charity Coordinator.

Sarah is a mum of three children, including Arthur, one of our Downright Special children. Welcome, Sarah!

Social events are a huge hit!

It was wonderful to welcome our children and young people back for face-to-face social events after such a long time apart.

A dance event for our secondary school aged children took place on May 22nd and dance sessions for our pre-school and primary school age children went ahead on June 6th.



Boots barbecue fundraiser

A barbecue supported by staff and drivers at Boots in Kingswood has raised more than £400 for Downright Special.

The event was organised by Boots Pharmacy Delivery and Collection (PDC) driver Simon Stevens, who cooked and sold burgers to colleagues in return for a donation to our charity.

Boots will also match-fund the amount raised. Thank you to Boots, Simon and everyone who supported the barbecue!



View our 2019/20 Annual Report

Our Annual Report is available to download via www.downrightspecial.co.uk/our-annual-report for anyone who'd like to find out more about our activities and progress from November 2019 to October 2020.



How you can help

Are you thinking of supporting us and looking for ideas?

There are so many ways you could help, including:

- Set up a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser or add a donate button to a post
- When shopping on Amazon, follow www.smile.amazon.co.uk
- Use www.easyfundraising.org.uk for your online shopping
- Purchase items from our Amazon wish list: <https://tinyurl.com/28sdxevx>
- Make a one-off or regular donation via Virgin Money Giving
- Donate a raffle or auction prize for our ongoing fundraising events
- Use Don't Send Me a Card - <https://tinyurl.com/2nwvdd6m>

Please contact louise@downrightspecial.co.uk if you'd like more information.

Thank you!



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