

# 7<sup>th</sup> Edition 2020 Friends OF DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



...building a brighter future for children with Down Syndrome

March 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Down Syndrome Awareness Week 2020

## Let's get involved!

Down Syndrome Awareness Week is just around the corner and we're excited to play our part!



This year's week, which runs from March 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, focuses on the theme #WeDecide, which is all about how people with Down syndrome should have full participation in decision-making about matters relating to, or affecting, their lives.

We'll share videos on social media throughout the week which follow this theme, but there are lots of ways in which you can get involved, helping us to raise vital funds and awareness.

Why not join us for coffee, cake, soft play and crafts at our Pop-up Café at Priory Baptist Church in

Hotham Road South, Hull, from 2pm to 4pm on World Down Syndrome Day, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

You could also wear your brightest, odd Lots of Socks and ask for a donation from your family, friends and colleagues, hold your own coffee morning or fundraising event, organise a Facebook fundraiser, host a collection tin, or plan a fun event during the week.

Gillian Bowlas, Downright Special Charity Manager, said: **"Down Syndrome Awareness Week is a brilliant opportunity to dispel some of the myths about Down syndrome.**

"People with Down syndrome can be supported to make decisions about their own lives and have control over what they do on a daily basis. All of the work we do with our children and young people is geared towards communication skills and enabling them to effectively make decisions.

"Awareness Week is also great for team building exercises, or events in the workplace and schools, while also raising awareness of Down syndrome and showing that differences are okay. More than £6,000 was raised last year and we're hoping to build on that with your help."

This year, we have a fun and informative awareness pack to help you arrange your own event, or even create your own odd sock bunting! The pack can be downloaded via [www.downrightspecial.co.uk/world-down-syndrome-day](http://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/world-down-syndrome-day). Alternatively, email [louise@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:louise@downrightspecial.co.uk) or call 07923 600160.



[www.worlddownsyndromeday.org](http://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)



## Dear friends

Having been involved as trustee with Downright Special for four years, it never ceases to amaze me how our team and volunteers manage to squeeze in so many activities and opportunities for our children and families to enjoy.

Over the next 12 months, the trustees will continue to support the development of the charity and look forward to sharing an update on a project we started last year called "Building a Brighter Future – Together". This project is scoping what opportunities are available to our young people once they leave full time education and how Downright Special can support them to continue to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support and here's to a fantastic 2020.

**Angela Broekhuizen,**  
Chair of Trustees



## Put your best foot forward over iconic landmark



We're delighted to have been chosen as the charity partner for the Humber Bridge Half Marathon's Family Fun Run event for the second consecutive year.

This means all surplus money from the fun run entry fees will be donated to Downright Special, as well as sponsorship raised by anyone who chooses to run for us in either the Downright Special Family Fun Run, or the Humber Bridge Half Marathon.

Both events will take place on June 28th and we would love

to see as many of our families & friends taking part in the fun run as possible. Entry costs £5 per person. To enter, visit [www.humber-half.org.uk/fun-run](http://www.humber-half.org.uk/fun-run). The first 21 Downright Special runners to sign up to the fun run and support us will receive a FREE running t-shirt, sponsored by Scientific Laboratory Supplies.

To enter the half marathon, visit [www.humber-half.org.uk](http://www.humber-half.org.uk). Entries cost £27 and, if you raise more than £150 for Downright Special, we will refund your entry fee after the race. We will also provide a Downright Special running top, sponsored by D3 Workwear. For further details, or to notify us of your entry, email [louise@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:louise@downrightspecial.co.uk)

## New trustees appointed

Welcome to Jamie Lewis and Lizann Lowson, who have joined Downright Special's Board of Trustees.

Jamie has extensive experience working in children's services and safeguarding, while Lizann is Acting Deputy Principal and Deputy CEO of Hull College.

They join Chair Angela Broekhuizen, Gavin Beresford, Katy Stevens and Jenny Ross. We are currently looking for a trustee with finance experience to join the board. Please email [gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk) for further details.

## What's On



We had a fantastic time at our soft play and bowling events in January and February, and we have plenty more dates for your diary!

**March 21st** World Down Syndrome Day Pop-up Café at Priory Baptist Church, Hull, from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome for soft play, crafts, coffee & cake. No need to book.

**April 5th** Easter egg hunt at Frederick Holmes School, Hull, 1pm to 3pm.

**May 1st** Youth Club pyjama party at Space Dance Studio, Hull, from 7pm to 9.30pm. For ages 8 to 18, bring a friend, wear your favourite pyjamas, eat pizza and watch a movie.

**May 17th** Soft play at Kinderland, Hessle, 10am to 12 noon. Siblings welcome.

**June 13th** Soft play at Big Fun, Hull, 10am to 12 noon. Siblings welcome.

Book tickets at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial)



## 'Sip & Shop' with us at Boutique Milla

Come and Join us at the fabulous Boutique Milla in Swanland for a 'Sip and Shop' charity evening on April 24th, from 7pm to 9pm!

Tickets cost £10 and include a goody bag, a glass of fizz, nibbles, cake and a raffle ticket, and 10% of any sales on the evening will be donated to our charity. Visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial) to book.



## Did you know?

- We employ three part-time specialist teachers who provide outreach support to over 45 mainstream nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools across the region.
- Schools tell us that our input has had a positive impact on their ability to differentiate the curriculum and has helped their ability and confidence to support a child with Down syndrome in their classroom.

## How can you help us?

There are lots of ways you can help to support Downright Special.

From skydiving, coffee mornings, or regular giving, to using [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), hosting a book shelf to sell our donated books, or buying a ticket for an event supporting Downright Special – all of these help to raise vital funds to continue our work.

We're also always looking for donated items to sell through our online eBay shop!

Please contact us on 07923 600150 for more information.

[www.downrightspecial.co.uk](http://www.downrightspecial.co.uk)



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