

# 8<sup>th</sup> Edition 2020

# Friends

## OF DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL

# NEWSLETTER



## COVID-19 – How we've adapted

**We've completely changed the way we currently work to ensure we can continue to support families safely from home.**

We continue to offer telephone support to new parents, or parents who are expecting a baby with Down syndrome, as well as general support and advice by telephone or email on all aspects of the care and education of children with Down syndrome

in Hull and East Yorkshire. We have a closed Facebook Group for parents/carers to share information, worries, news, keep in touch or just have a general chat. Our teaching staff are providing remote support, resources, advice and

information to families, schools and nurseries. A donation from Warburtons meant we could buy printers for them to use at home, so they can continue to make and post out resources.



## Dear friends

**Since our last newsletter, we've been living through unprecedented times and I would like to acknowledge the work of our great team who have ensured support to families has continued.**

The effect of not being able to hold community fundraising events has had a significant impact on our income. If you're able to think creatively about holding a fundraising event in a safe way, please don't hesitate to contact us via [office@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:office@downrightspecial.co.uk)

From July, I will be handing over the role of Chair to fellow trustee Lizann Lowson. It has been a privilege to lead the board for the last four years and I'm fortunate to be able to stay on as a trustee, continuing to support the fantastic work of Downright Special.

**Best wishes,**  
**Angela Broekhuizen,**  
**Chair of Trustees**

## Friday Group

**We've been working hard to transform our usual Friday sessions into an online version of our teaching groups.**

Laura, Katie and Nicola are delivering lessons via Zoom for children who usually attend our Friday sessions. For children who can't attend a Zoom lesson, or find it difficult to cope with working this way, we're happy for them to work on the resources we send home.



With help from Erin and Anya, Sam is running a weekly Facebook Live version of Magic Bag, our singing and signing session, with 20-30 children taking part each week.



## Children supported in schools/nurseries

We continue to offer resources and advice to schools and nurseries, helping with differentiating the online resources they're providing for their classes.

We're also attending annual reviews, writing reports and helping with transitions.

## An update on our trustees

We'd like to introduce our new Parent Trustee, Kate Long!



Kate is mum to four-year-old Harry, who has Down syndrome, and is a senior lecturer at York St John University. She leads on special needs and inclusion in the university's School of Education.

To contact Kate, email [kate@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:kate@downrightspecial.co.uk)

Lizann Lowson joined our Board of Trustees more than eight months ago and will take over the role of Chair of Trustees from Angela in July.



Lizann, who is the Deputy CEO of a large College of Further and Higher Education, said: "I'm delighted to be undertaking the position of Chair of Trustees. It is a privilege to be involved with such a forward thinking and important charity. I continue to be impressed by the work of the teachers and support teams within the charity."

## Postponed celebrations for Down Syndrome Awareness Week

Our planned Pop-Up Café during Down Syndrome Awareness Week in March had to be postponed due to social distancing rules.

### But fear not!

We've rescheduled the event at Priory Baptist Church in Hull on Saturday 21st November, from 2pm to 4pm. We'd love you to join us for delayed World Down

Syndrome Day celebrations and enjoy drinks, cake, entertainment and activities for children!

Please email [louise@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:louise@downrightspecial.co.uk) for more information.

Despite being unable to get together during awareness week, it was still wonderful to see so many families, individuals and groups wearing their 'Lots of Socks' at home and sharing their pictures.

## This year's awareness week fundraising total currently stands at £2,414.

Huge thanks to the following people for their support:

**Liz Herrievan** raised **£171** selling Down syndrome awareness badges.

**Bryn Grey** raised **£1,472** through two tattoo raffles, donations and his earnings on World Down Syndrome Day.

**Rachel Cook** raised **£50** through a bake sale.

**Sharon Mills** raised **£60.50** selling Down syndrome awareness badges.

**£450** was also raised by seven people who used the 'donate now' button on their social media posts during awareness week.

## How can you support us?

There are several easy ways you can help us without it costing you anything:

- Shop online via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/downrightspecial/> Most High Street shops and other organisations are included and donate a percentage of the purchase price to charity.
- Choose Amazon Smile for your Amazon shopping - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> On each site, a percentage of the purchase price comes direct to Downright Special.
- Send e-cards using Don't Send Me a Card - <https://www.dontsendmeacard.com/> You can send birthday, thank you and special occasion cards while choosing to support a charity of your choice.
- Consider making a regular donation through your payroll or [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com)

Please contact us on 07923 600150 for more information.

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



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