

# 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2019

# Friends

## OF DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL

# NEWSLETTER



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



## Humber Half & fun run hailed a success

We'd like to say a massive thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the Humber Bridge Half Marathon and Downright Special Fun Run on June 30th.

The event is always hugely popular and we were delighted to be named as the charity partner for the fun run for the first of three years.

The fun run saw 49 people complete the distance for Downright Special, with a further three completing the half marathon for us.

The total amount raised for Downright Special from fun run

sponsorship was £2,658.75, and another £737.50 from the half marathon runners, and we are truly grateful for the support.

Thanks also go to Neil Bewell at Scientific Laboratory Supplies for sponsoring the fun run T-shirts, Gavin Beresford Consulting Limited for sponsoring the medals, and Martin Shaw at D3 Office Supplies for sponsoring the half

marathon T-shirts.

**"To be involved with and benefit from such a fantastic event really means a lot to us. It was a fantastic day with a great atmosphere and we're already looking forward to next year."**

Gillian Bowlas, Downright Special Charity Manager.



## Dear Friends

We've had a very busy few months since the last edition of our newsletter in June and I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us through fundraising and attending events.

We're also delighted our new baby group is now up and running. Led by Lauren Lawler, the group provides vital support during those early weeks and we've welcomed new families to Downright Special throughout 2019.

Planning ahead to the future, work is underway to look at how we support our young people in the transition to adulthood, which we'll bring you more news on in the not too distant future.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Best wishes,**

**Angela Broekhuizen,  
Chair of Trustees**

## Shopping online helps to raise funds

Did you know you can help to raise funds for Downright Special just by shopping online? All you have to do is visit the links below follow the instructions and shop as usual!

**amazon smile** [www.smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1175863-0](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1175863-0)

**easyfundraising** [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/downrightspecial](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/downrightspecial)  
feel good shopping

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to Downright Special, while we'll receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make via easyfundraising.

**All at no extra cost to you, or to us. Happy shopping!**

# Rocking around the Christmas tree

We're full steam ahead with plans for our Christmas party again this year, with lots of games, activities, entertainment and party food set to be the order of the day.

We'd like to thank the team at Holiday Inn, Hull Marina, once again for allowing us to hold the event at their beautiful venue on December 7th from 12 noon to 3pm. They are a great support to our charity and always make our families so welcome.

Also, thank you to Willerby Ltd for donating towards the cost of the party and helping to make it even more of a brilliant time for everyone involved.



If you would like to attend, please **RSVP to [social@downrightspecial.co.uk](mailto:social@downrightspecial.co.uk) by November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Siblings are also welcome and we look forward to seeing you for some festive fun!

## Did you know?

- > We have **supported 120** families since Downright Special was founded 12 years ago.
- > Our families say they feel less isolated and **have more confidence** thanks to the support of Downright Special.
- > Our families say they have seen **improvements in their child's speech and language** skills as a result of being supported by Downright Special.

## Social events galore for our families

Our children and families have enjoyed another packed few months of activities as the calendar of Youth Club and social events continues to grow.

Events included a swimming party at Haltemprice Leisure Centre in Anlaby, Ezam's A-Maze-Ing workshop, a trip to Densholme Care Farm near Hornsea, Jeddy Bear's picnic and we're looking forward to our Halloween party at Space Dance Studios on October 20th.

**Huge thanks to our Social Secretary, Victoria, for organising such a fun and packed programme.**

## New volunteers join Downright Special family



We'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Friday group volunteer, **Clare Mooney**, who is the daughter of our Advisory Teacher, Nicola O'Riordan.



## Celebrating grant success

We've had fantastic news regarding grant applications this year, including the following awards:

- > **Barbara Ward Children's Foundation - £24,000** over three years for core costs
- > **British Humane Association - £5,000** towards a teacher's salary
- > **Hull Aid in Sickness - £1,500** towards core costs
- > **The Joseph & Annie Cattle Trust - £2,500** towards core costs

This is in addition to applications submitted in the summer, which we are waiting to hear about.

## 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.



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Downright Special would like to thank Umber Creative and GKD for their support in designing and printing this newsletter.

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