

10th Edition 2021 Friends OF DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



How will you mark Down Syndrome Awareness Week?



We're just a few weeks away from Down Syndrome Awareness Week 2021!

It may be a little different this year due to the pandemic, but we'd love as many people as possible to help raise vital funds and awareness in a Covid-secure way throughout the week.



Dear friends,

I hope you're keeping well. Your continued support for Downright Special is hugely appreciated.

While the challenge of lockdown continues for us, the way in which teachers, support staff, parents and wider stakeholders are working collaboratively to ensure our children and families are supported is truly excellent.

Thank you very much to the organisations and individuals donating and granting us funding. Without this, our team would not be able to provide such dedicated teaching and support to our children.

For our families, I know many of you are missing the face-to-face Friday sessions and we're certainly missing you! Please get in touch if you need further support.

Thank you,

**Lizann Lowson
Chair of Trustees**

Down Syndrome Awareness Week runs from March 15th – 21st, ending on World Down Syndrome Day, and there are many ways you can get involved:

- Wear your brightest 'Lots of Socks' and tag us in your pictures on social media, as well as using the hashtags #LotsofSocks #WSDS2021. You can purchase your socks here: <https://lotsofsocks.worlddownsyndromeday.org/collections/lotsofsocks-socks>
- Join our children's sponsored nature scavenger hunt! Register with louise@downrightspecial.co.uk who will email activity sheets. You can then set up a Virginmoneygiving page, take photos during the hunt to share with us and receive a certificate for taking part!
- How about a sponsored head or beard shave?
- Join our #livingthebestlives social media campaign to show videos of our children doing what they love most. Please email your videos to gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk by February 28th and don't forget to like and share our posts during the week.
- Create an online Facebook fundraiser: www.facebook.com/fund/DownrightSpecialNetwork

Please email louise@downrightspecial.co.uk or call 07923 600150 for a fundraising pack, collection buckets, leaflets, balloons or posters. Thank you for your continued support!

How we're continuing to provide support

We may not be able to meet in person at the moment, but our support continues from a distance!

While some of our children remain in school, all of our teachers are delivering online lessons and our Advisory Teacher, Dr Nicola O'Riordan, is now working three days per week, rather than two, providing support to teachers and staff via Zoom and over the phone.

We're increasing our online offer and using Zoom for bespoke and group training, and education, more than ever before.

Visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial> for details of our online training courses.



Dedicated Health Lead appointed



We'd like to welcome Sam Findlay as the Downright Special Health Lead.

Sam is no stranger to our charity and the post has been funded by Help for Health and the Hospital Saturday Fund.

Sam, whose daughter Anya has Down syndrome, said: "I want to build a 'library' of up-to-date information and resources about the health issues that pop up for our children.

"This will ensure we have information at our fingertips to provide advice or signpost to the relevant local professionals, empowering parents and reducing barriers to children accessing healthcare."

Gillian Bowlas, Downright Special Charity Manager, said: "The post is a natural evolution following the work that has been done on the Down Syndrome Care Pathway locally.

"We've always had a strong focus on education and the aim is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to understanding the health needs of children with Down syndrome.

"Having someone dedicated to monitoring the latest developments and helping families navigate the sometimes complex pathways will pave the way for the best health outcomes."

Would you like to support us?

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

- Shop online via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/downrightspecial/
- Choose Amazon Smile for your Amazon shopping - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>
- Send e-cards using Don't Send Me a Card - www.dontsendmeacard.com/
- Consider making a regular donation through your payroll or www.virginmoneygiving.com
- Visit our Amazon Wish List if you'd like to purchase an item <https://tinyurl.com/DRSAmazonWishlist>
- Donate quality items to sell via our eBay shop
- Donate raffle or auction prizes



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

Your unwanted items can help us!



Did you know, your unwanted CDs, DVDs, games and books can be turned into charity donations with Ziffit?

The partnership with Virginmoneygiving helps you to #DeclutterandDonate to help Downright Special. All you have to do is:

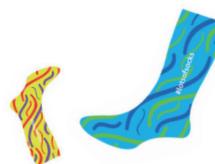
- 1 Download the Ziffit app, scan the barcodes of your products and get an instant value.
- 2 Select Downright Special at the checkout and pack up your unwanted items.
- 3 Use Ziffit's free courier (if your items weigh 5kg or more) or drop-off services to send items free of charge.
- 4 The value of your items will be donated to Downright Special.

The minimum number of items you can send is 10, or less if the value is over £5. If you have any questions, please email louise@downrightspecial.co.uk

Funding for the future

We've been working really hard to replace lost community funding due to the pandemic, including applying for grants and submitting various funding applications.

We've had success with Children in Need, The Ironmongers' Company, Hull Aid in Sickness Trust, Help for Health, the Two Ridings Coronavirus Fund, the Hospital Saturday Fund, the Albert Hunt Trust, the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund and the Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust, which we're incredibly grateful for.



umber

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

Downright Special

Bodmin Road Church Office,
Padstow Close, Bodmin Road,
Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE

T: 01482 420160

E: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR