

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



INTRODUCING OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Friends - Play for Disabled Children's first newsletter!

We are hoping to create these newsletters quarterly to round up any event and fundraising news and to let you know any upcoming events to add to your diary.

Over the first few months of 2019, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to bring to you a new website, a new registration form and hopefully a new booking system for events which we will be phasing in over the next few weeks. To set up these changes, I'm sure a few technical difficulties will arise but please bear with us.

We also welcome on board a new member to the team Emma Roberts who will be introduced, along with the rest of the team, later in the newsletter. We would like to give a big shout out to Nathan Chadwick who has helped support Emma with the new systems.



Velocity City Wigan 5th February 2019

FUNDRAISING REMINDER

Please use these sites when you are doing your shopping. We can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online. It won't cost you a penny extra so please help us to raise funds.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends>

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1167995-0>

<https://paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3233591>

FUNDRAISERS

Thank You to;

- Ian Smith & the team at The Tunza Centre for hosting our New Year Party.
- Friends of Haydock Reunion Function organised by Maggie Smith who have just donated £500.
- St Julie's Toddler Group raised and donated £30.
- May thanks to those who use Amazon Smile. We have just received £19.25
- Family Bingo night raised £360. Thank you to Sandra & the team at St Anne's Social Club for hosting event. Thank you to Sara Dolan for being our bingo caller

FRIENDS IN THE PAPER!

Meet the inspirational mums who are bringing together the families of disabled children so they don't feel alone.

https://www.tsb.co.uk/local-pride/north-west-england/friends-play-for-disabled-children/?fbclid=IwAR0_NrnsWjh75meGM95D60V0QI32ED0xl-OhRo5PB0kpePEWEcsGdDRWdd4

EVENT ROUNDUP

We've had a busy start to the year, starting with a visit to watch Peter Pan at the St Helens Royal Theatre. We enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Tunza centre, for a New Year Party.

We've had regular events with Fun and Floats at Leigh Sports Village, Velocity City at both the Wigan and Widnes venue and working in partnership with St Helens Healthy Living Team delivering some Cook and Taste workshops.

We've had some arts and crafts sessions with the Lush Sensory Bottle making and acrylic painting sessions with Positive Life Workshops where some fabulous art work was created.

During half term we even managed to squeeze in a showing of Paddington Bear at the Lucem Community Cinema and a Bear Hunt with the Fairy Forest Group at St Benedict's Woods in Rainhill.

MEET THE TEAM

Paula Jones



I work part time for a bank & have 2 children Lauren 19 (PDA/ASD/MLD) & Ewan 16 (studying A Levels at 6th form). Information, support & places to go were very limited when I started my autism journey. In 2012 I joined forces with Melanie & together we created Friends - Play for Disabled Children in the hope that we could help other families feel less isolated & have somewhere to turn to for support. We welcome new families to the group each week & are growing from strength to strength with the combined knowledge of group members. You will see me as Pink Lady at events regularly.

Melanie Battye



I work full time and have a daughter Saskia aged 14. At this time Saskia was known as a S.W.A.N (syndrome without a name). Finally a year later we received 2 diagnosis within 3 weeks of each other, ASD and Syngap1 (rare genetic condition we were number 16 in the world).

Friends to me is a way of socialising with other families, building a supportive network, and sharing information to increase our strength and knowledge in relation to the obstacles/challenges that we face on a daily basis.

Emma Roberts



I work part time as a teacher and I have two children, Sophie aged 5 and Olivia aged 3. I have an IT background and have been developing the website and the new registration and booking system to help streamline the paperwork involved. I very much look forward to meeting more of the families involved with friends and seeing you at our many events.

Tracy & Chris Valentine-Smith



We have 4 children and 1 grandson. 2 of our children have additional needs, Down Syndrome & Autism. We used to foster and work with deprived children before we had our own & enjoyed every minute of it. We didn't realise how hard it was to be a parent especially when you find out that one or more of your children have additional needs. So we decided to help other parents. We heard about Paula & Mel's group, approached them and just said we are available if you need us and that's when we got our pink Tee shirts. So that's where we are today and we just love every minute of it.



Sensory Bottle Making 20th February 2019

SEND INFORMATION DAY



Great to see so many of you at the SEND information day hosted by The Carers Centre at The Town Hall. Hopefully able to spread the word about Friends and welcome some new members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th April - Chester Zoo

27th April - Charity Fundraising Night

19th May - Princess & Super hero party

Friends - Play for Disabled Children is a registered charity supporting families in St Helens and the surrounding areas. Our charity number is 1167995. We are registered in England & Wales.

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We're on the Web!
See us at: www.friendsplay.org.uk