

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



## WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Friends - Play for Disabled Children's winter newsletter!

What an amazing year 2019 has been. We have changed a lot as a charity, we welcomed Emma on board, moved to an electronic registration system, changed the events booking system and have done a record number of events.

Christmas has been wonderfully busy, trying new activities as well as our regular annual classics. We are always looking for feedback on our events so feel free to drop us an email.

January is a quiet time for the charity whilst we spend some time doing the admin side as well as testing out a new payment booking system which we are hoping to roll out shortly. This will mean that payment is required at the time of booking in order to reserve your places. This should reduce the time spent chasing payments our side and therefore can spend more time fundraising in order to subsidise our event costs.

### 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>



Knowsley Enchanted 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Thank You

We would like to thank all our supporters throughout 2019. Without your support we wouldn't be able to provide as many activities as we have this year.

### EVENT ROUNDUP

We have had a lovely few months in the round up to Christmas.

In October, we went to see Dear Zoo, had a day at the Children's Adventure Farm Trust, we had a Halloween party, a Halloween themed fairy forest and went to see Sleeping Beauty at St Helens Theatre.

In November, we went on a tour of the CBBC studio, and to watch the Radio City Tour. We also went to see the Marvel Universe show. The Little Mix Experience came to St Helens Theatre and we all loved dancing along.

In the run up to Christmas, we went to see the Snowman at Manchester Opera House, we went to see the Lanterns and Chester Zoo and we had our wonderful annual Santa Train day out.

In December, we did a staggering 15 events!!

We started with a trip to Farmer Ted's to see Farmer Christmas, we finished the Choir sessions with a wonderful Christmas themed session with a special visit from Elsa and Anna. We went to see Elf the musical and had a wonderful Christmas party at the Tunza Centre. We had tickets to see the Grinch and also had a great time bouncing at Velocity. We were given tickets to the Winter Funland which some lucky families were able to attend. We had our annual trip to watch Singalong Santa at the Philharmonic and had our last Lucem cinema of the year where a surprise visitor came to hand out gifts. We enjoyed our last fairy forest of the year with an elf special and we also enjoyed a trip to Knowsley Safari Park to enjoy their enchanted evening. We finished the year off with two pantomimes, Snow White and Jack and the Beanstalk.

## FUNDRAISERS

Thank You to;

- Thank you to Gary Crickson and Forge Fitness for running their regular Saturday morning fitness boxing group for donations to the group. They have donated £230 since our last newsletter.
- We have had a donation from the National Lottery for £9690 so a big thank you.
- The NCS Young People have been holding some fundraising events for us and have kindly donated £280.63
- The Entertainer Toy Shop retail group have chosen us as a charity to support and have donated us £1000
- The tombola run by Paula and Emma at the Lansbury Christmas fair managed to raise £165. Thank you to those who came to see us.
- Many thanks to those who use Amazon Smile and PayPal Giving. We have just received £39.14
- We have had a donation of £325 from the Haydock Reunion, many thanks to their kind generosity.
- The Kids Party company have managed to raise £50 through a collection box at their events. As I'm sure you will agree, they do fantastic parties.
- The Radio City cash for Kids campaign with LFC have managed to raise and donate £1500 to us so a warm thank you to them as well.



Farmer Ted's 1<sup>st</sup> December

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM - date to be decided

Lee Smith Sponsored Walk - Pie Town to Glass Town 15 Feb 2020

Bingo Night - St Annes Sutton 3rd April 2020



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](http://www.friendsplay.org.uk)