

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Friends – Play for Disabled Children’s spring newsletter.

We’ve got the year off to a great start with parties and pantos; skating and cycling with lots more exciting things planned for the year ahead.

Although the first few months of the year seem quieter for the charity, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to organise some fabulous events and funding for these.

We are looking forward to welcoming the sunshine alongside our upcoming events.

Paula, Mel and Emma x

Upcoming events

- 3rd April – Roller Disco, Wigan
 - 7th April – Peter & Friends Experience, Walton Hall
 - 9th April – Easter raffle draw
 - 13th April – Beauty & The Beast Panto, St Helens
 - 14th April – Friends Friday Party @ Tunza
 - 16th April – Peter Rabbit @ Lucem Cinema
 - 22nd April – Warrington Play & sensory centre
 - 29th April – Demon Dentist, Liverpool Empire
 - 27th May – Circus Starr, Wigan
 - 30th May – Roller Disco, Wigan
 - 2nd June – Friends Friday Party @ Tunza
- Ongoing –
Choir meets every Tuesday at 6pm, St. Helens Town Hall

FUNDRAISING

With the recent closure of the Amazon Smile donation programme, we would like to ask for as many of you as possible to sign up and shop online via ‘easyfundraising’. We can collect free donations every time you buy something and it won’t cost you a penny extra, so please help us to raise vital funds.
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends

If any of you have any unwanted items that could be used as raffle or tombola prizes in the future, please get in touch, we would be grateful for any contributions to aid with our fundraising efforts.

Please also get in touch if you have any fundraising suggestions, such as the spring shopping night that recently took place at Lansbury Bridge, we are open to any opportunities to raise awareness and funding for Friends.



PANTO TIME

We returned to the Theatre Royal in St Helens on 18th Feb to see the fantastic Wizard of OZ. There was singing, laughter a little bit of dancing and a lot of love for Toto.



Thank you to Wigan Athletic, their generosity meant nine families were able to attend the ‘Unite for Access’ match against Coventry on 14th March. It was a close-run match with both sides earning a draw.



**Friends
Friday**



Our first visit of the year to the Tunza Centre for Friends Friday – UV Glow Party. Thank you to The Ultimate Party People for providing the entertainment with UV lights, glow sticks and lots of dancing. The children loved seeing their faces & arms light up with the glow paint.



Fun, Popcorn and Hotdogs were enjoyed on 12th Feb at our first visit to Lucem Cinema this year watching Sing 2.

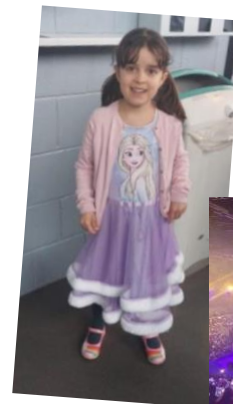
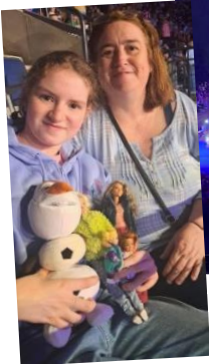


We attended the 'St. Helens SEND Local Offer Information Day' on 9th March to raise awareness of Friends and the service we provide.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to talk to Paula – it was great to meet so many new people and see some familiar faces as well.

**Disney On Ice
M&S Bank Arena – 18th March**

This was our first visit to Disney on Ice since 2019. We had some very excited young people eager to see Mickey, Minnie and the rest of their friends. The show was spectacular and certainly did not disappoint. From Moana to Toy Story to Little Mermaid to Frozen, there was something for everyone and even a massive finale. We can't wait to go back!



THANK YOU

- To all those who donated, helped and supported us at the Lansbury Bridge Spring Shopping Event on 6th March – we raised a fantastic amount of £170
- A big thanks to the Staff of Liuv Housing who nominated us for their People Fund Scheme for £500
- A massive thank you to everyone who voted for us in Asda's 'Green Token Giving' initiative – we won the top prize of £500
- A big shout out to Gary Crickson from Forge Fitness who has donated a massive total of £1730 to date through collections and charity classes

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!
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www.friendsplay.org.uk