



Up on Downs

SUMMER NEWS
AND EVENTS

ISSUE 3 2008

Affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association

THE BIG STEP FORWARD

To mark Down's Awareness Week we are holding a sponsored walk around Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage on May 31st.

Sponsor forms and Registration are available now.



COFFEE AND PLAY MEETINGS

Monthly Up on Downs coffee mornings begin at the Leavesden Children's Centre, Watford, on Friday April 25th. Thereafter they will run regularly on the last Friday of every month, 10am to 12pm. Toys and refreshments will be available so pop along for coffee and play. Leavesden Children's centre is part of Leavesden Green School, High Road, Leavesden, Watford WD25 7Qz. Contact our new Watford co-ordinator, Claire Tinsley on 01923 442230 or just turn up.

be contacted on 07910965754 or Monikasuw@hotmail.com.

NUMICON TRAINING DAY

We have invited Helen Long back to deliver a Numicon and early numeracy training day on October 19th. This will be held at Homerswood School in Welwyn Garden City. Details of the day to be announced but do mention this to your teachers as early as possible and contact us with any enquiries.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES

Following on from a well attended open house at Ruth's house in Welwyn last half term, when we welcomed baby Louise and her parents, Monika Lee has agreed to set up a rota of Open Houses to cover school holidays. Monika, as our school holiday events organizer will be the contact for all of these and has is also organizing an end of term trip to Thames Valley Adventure Playground on July 24th (details enclosed). Monika can



DRAMA WORKSHOPS WITH ACT ONE ARTSBASE

The quarterly drama sessions which are inspired by the seasons have been fun for all ages and a particular hit with the older age group. Summer, Winter and Autumn Sessions are still bookable for June 8, September 7 and November 30th. Ring Julie on 01462 452 705 or email Julie.evens@hotmail.com

SEE OVER FOR WOODSIDE FARM TRIP NEWS

Achieving Better Communication



From April 24th our two pilot communication groups will be up and running at London Colney Nursery Children's Centre. The groups will run for three terms of 9 weeks each and will be additional to any support the children are entitled to on the NHS.

We have been able to fund the pilot groups through a Learning and Development grant from Hertfordshire

Children Schools and Families, supplemented by a weekly parental contribution towards the costs of tools and therapy. We will be using an experienced therapist who applies the DownsEd teaching methods and uses specialist Talk Tools to develop oral strength.

If the scheme is successful we expect it to attract further funding so that we can both sustain this group for the next year and bring on more groups to support school age children with communication issues.



**WOODSIDE ANIMAL
FARM AND LEISURE
PARK, May 11th**

Bookings are still being taken for our trip to Woodside Farm in Luton which Daytrippers are kindly funding this year.

Send your forms in by May 3rd please as we will be finalizing numbers with the venue for tickets and lunch.



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

The programme and membership are expanding rapidly and we are delighted to have lots of our members to thank for helping this to happen. In particular we'd like to thank **Steve Robinson** for continuing to maintain our website and to congratulate Steve and Charlotte on the arrival of twin boys. **Claire Tinsley** has been busily finalizing venue arrangements and the Halloween party for Watford, **Monika Lee** has organized the Open House rota and our Thames Valley Adventure Playground Trip with assistance from **Sharon Parker**, and **Ruth Patil** has given a great deal of advice that helped us to secure funding for the pilot communication groups and has been busy with the programme for the Early Development Group.

HALLOWEEN PARTY,

NOVEMBER 1ST



We are already planning our first Halloween Party in Watford on Saturday November 1st, 4-6pm. Heartbeeps entertainment will be producing a multi-sensory entertainment. Details will be announced nearer the time and bookings will be taken. In the meantime enquiries can be made to Claire Tinsley, Atinsley8@aol.com

Shaylyn, a friend from Canada, takes the wheel!

Paul Holgate has organised the Big Step Forward walk. **Shirley Hassall** has taken on the role of Safeguarding Adviser to help us meet our obligations to the children and young adults who come to us. **Adam Fernandez** has joined **Alex Cormack** and **Kiran Johal** to supervise the children's activities at our meetings and **Fiona Allen** has stepped in with scissors and glue on many occasions when we needed help with supplies. We've also had some brilliant sponsorship recently from the **North Herts District Partnership**, the Chestnut Tree and Lime Tree **Letchworth Children's Centres**, **London Colney** and **Leavesden Children's Centres**, **Ian Williscroft's** sponsored Head-shave (!) and **Daytrippers**, as well as **Walsworth Baptist Church**, **Homerswood School** and **Norton Community Centre** for letting us use their venues. **Frances Denning** has coordinated committee meetings. **Julie Evens** and **Sande Nuttall** continue to handle the day to day running of the organisation and oversee the events programme. We would like to thank **all our members and friends** for their wonderful support and inspiration.