down's syndrome oxford

Newsletter | March 2019

From the Chair

We're already in March of 2019 so it's high time for another DSO newsletter! Thank you very much for all your contributions this time, and thank you, Lucy Sanderson, for putting it all together again.

First of all, we're introducing our **DSO singing and signing choir** in this issue with an article explaining how it came about and some brilliant photos taken at the first few choir rehearsals. Go to page 2 to get to know the choir and to find out where they will have their first public performance.

We have also introduced a **DSO public Facebook page**. Andrew Fearnside has kindly set it up for us and if you have ideas for events or activities which the world should know about, please turn to page 5 to find out how to do this.

In this issue we're also reflecting on Christmas with a couple of pages full of photos of the **DSO Christmas party** which was restored to its former glory after it had been snowed off last year. And we're looking back at a very successful concert by the **buddy ensemble** at the Royal Albert Hall where many DSO members performed in front of a huge audience. A lot of DSO members also enjoyed the **pantos** again this year. See page 12 for some lovely photos!

We are also looking back at the life of one of our members. **Sophia Antognazza Hotson** is commemorated in this newsletter with a beautiful celebration of her life on pages 18-20 written by her parents.

In our next newsletter we hope to see lots of photos of how you spent your **World Down's Syndrome Day** this year. If you'd like some help with raising awareness or raising funds for DSO on that day, go to page 21 for some more information on a DSO WDSD pack.

Marion Simon, *Chair*

In this edition

Introducing the DSO Choir

Elsa Gill writes:

In the snow of early February, the DSO Choir met at Wheatley Park 6th Form Centre for its inaugural rehearsal. The idea for a singing and signing choir came about when **Annie Hawkins** who works at Mabel Pritchard Secondary School (where my son attends) approached me and offered to do something with DSO families. Little did we know then how popular the choir would be! Annie has a passion for 'putting on performances' and runs a weekly choir at MP school. She also recently organised a group of students from MP school to attend the successful 'Music for Youth Proms' at the Royal Albert Hall.

From the first session, **the response from both parents and the children has been hugely positive**. Parents have commented on how well their children have focused at the sessions and also how therapeutic they have found the singing and signing to be.

After a few weeks, I put a 'shout out' on Facebook looking for a community-minded business to sponsor us by funding new choir T-shirts. **Within ten minutes of going online Nicola Lathey, founder of The Owl Centre for Children's Independent Therapy, had reached out and offered to sponsor us**...a match made in heaven!

Annie and I knew from the start that we wanted the choir to have a purpose and to perform to the public. We contacted Woolgate Shopping Centre in Witney, and are planning our first public performance on the Sunday after World Down Syndrome Day (24th March). We know that in our newly printed T-shirts, we will be great ambassadors for DSO and as well as raising awareness, we'll hopefully raise some funds too.

Due to its popularity, to the lovely mix of supportive families who attend and to Annie's infectious enthusiasm, we are planning to continue long term and to hopefully do many more exciting performances in the future.

A note from our sponsor

"The Owl Centre is absolutely delighted to sponsor the DSO Choir. For us, it was a no-brainer; firstly, DSO has a very special place in my heart as we have worked with DSO in a number of ways across the years, and secondly, to help promote the language, listening and phonological awareness benefits of singing to the Down's syndrome community as a whole. A perfect match!"

Nicola Lathey, *founder of The Owl Centre for Children's Independent Therapy*

www.theowltherapycentre.co.uk

dso
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CHOIR

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DSO Choir

Want to join our popular Singing and Signing Choir?

Four rehearsal sessions ending in a performance at the DSO Summer Party on Saturday 15th June.

Sat 27th April, 11th May, 18th May & 8th June

2-4pm

@Wheatley Park 6th Form Centre, Holton OX33 1QL

Open to all abilities from primary school aged and up, including teenagers and adults. Interested siblings are also welcome.

Please contact elsagill99@gmail.com if interested

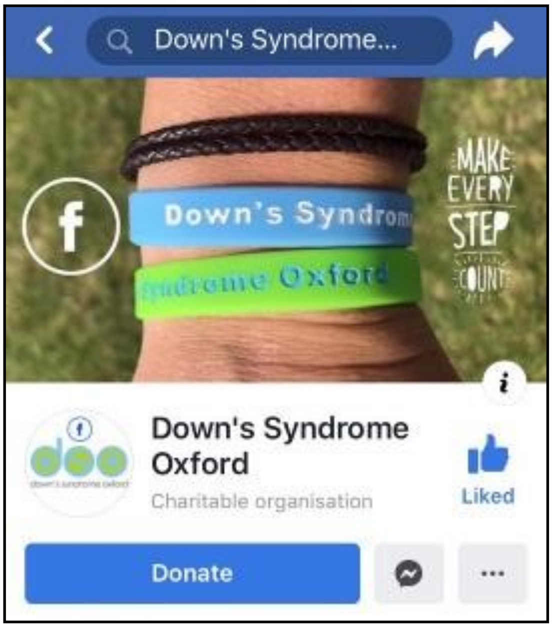
New DSO Public Facebook Page

We are happy to announce the creation of the DSO Facebook page.

The aim of this page is to increase the profile of DSO and to give us an extra way to raise funds.

Please note that is not to be confused with the closed group we've run for a number of years. The page is the public side of DSO whereas the group is for members only.

We are keen to show the public what we do and why funds are needed, so if you have any content you think would do that please let **Andrew Fearnside** know, either via Facebook or at afearny@icloud.com. Ongoing updates on things like the choir, football, groups and trips would be ideal. So please Like and Share!



https://www.facebook.com/DownsSyndromeOxford

Save the Date

DSO SUMMER PARTY

Saturday 15th June 2019

1.00pm—9.00pm

Wheatley Rugby Club

(where the 21 Walkathon took place last year)

Entertainer DSO Choir Mini Disco

Further details coming soon!

Christmas Party

By Sue Crisp, *Grandmother to Chloe (13)*

I offered to help at the DSO Christmas Party at Exeter Hall. This was the first time I had been to the event.

Wow, what a wonderful, happy atmosphere there was from the start. Everybody pooled resources and the afternoon flowed with great energy and a friendly buzz. I was awestruck by the way the food kept coming from families as they arrived. The team work was fantastic and the whole event moved like clockwork.

The children and young people were clearly having a brilliant time singing, playing games, dancing to the disco and receiving presents from Father Christmas. Jeff did a great job providing the entertainment, the carol singing by Sam was amazing, and the singing and signing session, led by the very talented Annie, was just wonderful.

Well done to all the families and friends of DSO for providing such lovely social activities for our very special children and young adults.


DSD
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Pre-school Club

Snakes and Ladders

In November the Pre-school Club had a visit to Snakes and Ladders indoor play centre in Abingdon. The children had great fun on the slides and in the ball pits. We also had food in the party room and the children were treated to party bags.

Fairytale Farm

In December we had a great day out at Fairytale Farm to visit Santa. We were lucky to get to feed some of the animals. There was also an opportunity to play games whilst we were there and, of course, every child got a gift from Santa!

New Year's Party

In January we hired Drayton Village Hall for a New Year's party. We had a bouncy castle and soft play that the kids. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and had plenty of food to keep them going.

Natalie Rowe, *Pre-School Club Co-ordinator*

Primary Club

Millets Farm Circus

In October half term the Primary Club enjoyed a trip to the Halloween circus at Millets Farm. Everyone had a great time watching the clowns, acrobats and a fantastic laser show.

Visit to see Father Christmas

A few weeks later the Primary Club visited Millets Farm once again, but this time to see Father Christmas. It's become an annual event for the Primary Club and this year certainly didn't disappoint. The children had fun and games with the elves, then decorated a gingerbread man. Each family also got to meet Santa and tell him what presents they would like for Christmas.

Kelly Stacey, *Primary Club Co-ordinator*

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 25th March 2019

At the Turnpike Inn, Yarnton

From 7.45pm

New committee members are always welcome. It's a valuable opportunity to meet other parents, find out what's going on, put forward new ideas, and have a say in how the charity is run.

GET INVOLVED

10+ Club

The 10+ Club members had a blast at the Halloween disco at Risinghurst Community Centre. Everyone dressed up in spooky outfits and DJ Claire played a brilliant mix of music that kept us on the dance floor all evening.

The smiles on the children's faces says it all—they had a brilliant time—so much so we're going to do it all again in March, but this time with a different theme!

Lucy Sanderson, *10+ Club Co-ordinator*

Volunteer needed!

We're looking for a keen volunteer to take on the management of Elliot's Shed.

Elliot's Shed contains specialist equipment and educational resources for members of Down's Syndrome Oxford to borrow. It provides a good opportunity for our members to 'try before you buy', especially on items that can be expensive to purchase.

Helen Gaffney has done a great job of managing Elliot's Shed for the last 2 years but is no longer able to carry on with the role so we're seeking a keen volunteer to take over from Helen. The role could be shared if more than one person would like to take it on.

For more information on what the role entails please get in touch with Helen (elliotsshed@dsoxford.org.uk) or Marion (chair@dsoxford.org.uk)

Panto Visits

Many of our families went to the panto with the help of DSO this Christmas.

We were lucky to be given an allocation of free tickets by the Oxfordshire Masons again for a private performance of Jack and the Beanstalk at the Oxford Playhouse. Children were given a free goody bag and everyone enjoyed the performance. This has become a regular outing for our families and we're grateful to the Masonic community for including us again this year.

DSO also subsidised 100 tickets for the Hexagon panto in Reading, featuring again our favourite performer Justin Fletcher. This year the show was Aladdin and the staging was fantastic. Some of our families were fortunate to meet Justin at the end of the show - he was absolutely lovely and happy to pose for pictures with us. What a great way to start the festive season!

We've booked more seats for next year's show and we will be offering those out to our members later this year. Watch this space!

Emma Smith, *Secretary*

Buddy Ensemble at the Royal Albert Hall

In November children from Down's Syndrome Oxford joined the Oxfordshire Music Service in a first of its kind performance at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall for the last night of the Music For Youth Proms 2018. We joined over 500 young people, half of whom had additional needs, to perform a 12-minute set including the songs "In Caelum" and "This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman.

At the end of our performance we received the only standing ovation of the evening, with even the host fighting back her tears. It was an amazing experience for all those who took part.

The students were buddied up with students from schools throughout Oxfordshire. The young people said they wanted to help students with SEN have the same opportunities as they do. The relationships formed between all the students and their buddies was inspiring.

Amanda Foulds, *mum to Thomas (13)*

Stay and Play

We continue to run the Stay and Play session every Wednesday during term time from 9.30am - 12.00pm at the Abingdon Carousal Centre.

This session is open to all and siblings are welcome. We'd love to see you there!

Siblings enjoy Laser Kombat

It's been a while since we've held an event solely for siblings so we were thrilled to have twelve siblings meet up for a trip to Lazer Kombat in January. These trips offer the siblings a chance to have fun and an opportunity to meet other children who are also young carers.

A great time was had by all and it was victory to the Red team!

Kelly Stacey, *Primary Club Co-ordinator*

Kelly’s Top Tips

Kelly Stacey, mum to Joseph, has a wealth of knowledge about support, services, activities, and ‘freebies’ available to those who have a child with special needs. From applying for grants and accessing services to recommendations for days out and holiday clubs — you name it, Kelly has some advice or suggestions! In our regular feature we tap into that knowledge and ask her to share her top tips with us all.

Family Fund

Family Fund is the UK’s largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people aged 17 or under. They provide grants for a wide range of items such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers.

Visit the Family Fund website for more information:

- **https://www.familyfund.org.uk**

Family Fund
Helping disabled children

Shampoo Cap

I highly recommend the Viva Medi Shampoo caps for those who aren’t able to wash their hair while in hospital. They were great for my son Joseph while he was in a brace. You simply warm the cap up in the microwave, pop it on the head and rub for 2 minutes. No need to rinse. The caps are available to purchase from:

- **incontinencechoice.co.uk**

Special Children’s Day at ZSL

ZSL | LET’S WORK FOR WILDLIFE
ZSL | LONDON ZOO
ZSL | WHIPSNADE ZOO

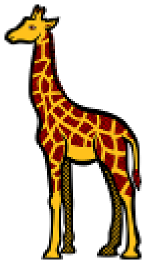
Every year ZSL (Zoological Society of London) hold their Special Children’s Days at their two Zoos— ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. These days dedicated to welcoming children with special needs and their families. With increased specialist facilities and staff presence, as well as interactive events and discounted entry, Special Children's Day is a great day out. This year’s Special Children’s Days are taking place on:

ZSL London Zoo

- Saturday 18 May
- Sunday 19 May

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

- Saturday 15 June *(if possible avoid this day as it’s the DSO Summer Party!)*
- Sunday 16 June



For more information visit the ZSL website:

- **https://www.zsl.org/events/special-childrens-day**

DSE’s #Education21 Campaign

Research by the organization Down Syndrome Education (DSE) has been summarized in their *#Education21 Campaign*. The campaign highlights 21 examples of how educational research has helped to better understand the needs of young people with Down’s syndrome and how it is improving outcomes for many children.

Here is an extract from one of the examples that focuses on how inclusive education can provide better language and academic

What educational research has shown

Since the 1980s an increasing number of children with Down’s syndrome are being educated in regular or mainstream classrooms with non-disabled peers. A number of educational research studies have considered the benefits or disadvantages of being in a mainstream setting compared with a special education classroom.

Gert de Graaf and colleagues published a systematic review of the studies conducted from 1970-2010 in a number of countries and conclude that results show that children educated in mainstream classrooms develop better language and academic skills even after selective placement is taken into account. There is no difference in outcomes for self-help skills possibly because many of these are learned and practised at home. For social networks, behaviour and social competence there are few differences or small advantages to mainstream placements. The children are well accepted by their peers but less often seen as 'best friends' and support for friendships in and outside school is recommended.

The De Graaf team have conducted the most comprehensive investigations of factors influencing academic outcomes for children in mainstream placements in the Netherlands. They reported that the children receive more teaching time focused on academics in mainstream but progress was also influenced by the child's cognitive abilities, parent educational level and the time parents spent teaching their child academics at home. In follow-up work this group have reported that children with IQs of 35-50 in mainstream placements make more academic progress than children with IQs above 50 in special schools. Further they report that in the first years of primary/ elementary school reading development directly benefits from mainstream placement. These findings are supported by the work of DSEI researchers.

How this is helping

The evidence of the benefits of mainstream inclusive education has led to an increase in mainstream placements for children with Down’s syndrome in preschool and from the start of full-time education in some countries.

Unanswered questions

Future research is needed to:

- explore the extent to which language gains are due to a richer language environment in a mainstream classroom, more language teaching or more exposure to literacy;
- develop more effective training programmess for teachers in mainstream education;
- to better understand how to improve the social inclusion of children with Down syndrome in and out of school.

For references to this article and for more information on the *#Education21 Campaign*, please take a look at the DSE website:

www.down-syndrome.org/en-gb/research/education-21/

Lottery Results

Recent Winners:

September 2018

1st prize - £38.00	Jo Colehan
2nd prize - £22.80	Andrew Partner
3rd prize - £15.20	Jo & Stuart Crawford

October 2018

1st prize - £39.00	Lucy & Mark Sanderson
2nd prize - £23.40	Jon Gill
3rd prize - £15.60	Andrew Fearnside

November 2018

1st prize - £40.00	Sue Crisp
2nd prize - £24.00	C & J Dilnot
3rd prize - £16.00	Andrew Fearnside

December 2018

1st prize - £42.00	Rachel & Gary Lane
2nd prize - £25.20	Netty Lings
3rd prize - 16.80	Jo Sumner

January 2019

1st prize - £42.00	Mary Robinson (kindly donated to DSO)
2nd prize - £25.20	Miss W Parker
3rd prize - £16.80	Sally Dubock

A big thank-you to all those who take part for your continued support.

We now raise **£120** per month for DSO!

Want to join the DSO lottery?

Each ticket is £5 per month

All you need to do is:

① Set up a regular monthly payment to our lottery account

→ **Account number 29786768 / Sort code 30-80-45**

② Send an email to Amanda Foulds at

→ **lottery@dsoxford.org.uk**

③ We'll allocate you a number, email you back to tell you your number, and let you know when you win!

Sophia's Gift

Sophia Antognazza Hotson (Aberdeen, 31 May 1999 – Oxford, 7 March 2018)

By Sophia's parents, Howard Hotson and Maria Rosa Antognazza

Our precious and beautiful daughter, Sophia, died peacefully at home on 7 March 2018, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on 31 May 1999 with Down's Syndrome and severe primary pulmonary hypertension. She bore her difficulties with amazing courage and astonishing resilience far longer than anyone thought possible, until her condition suddenly took a turn for the worse on Monday 5 March.

In trying to summarize in a few words the brief life of our daughter, the word which keeps reasserting itself is 'extraordinary'. This may seem a trivial observation of someone whose limitations and difficulties kept her outside the norm, but in Sophia's case disabilities were coupled with extraordinary gifts and abilities, way beyond the capacity of ordinary people.

From a purely physical, physiological perspective, there can be no doubt whatsoever that Sophia was extra-ordinary. Anyone familiar with the typical physical manifestations of Downs Syndrome could recognize them in Sophia instantly. To the benign external features were added the medical conditions associated with the syndrome – including a weak immune system and low muscle tone – as well as learning difficulties particularly manifest in the area of speech and language. And on top of these core limitations other problems gradually proliferated throughout her short life. Due to a thyroid condition, our 'elfin creature' never grew above four feet tall. As adult teeth crowded into a child-size mouth, the danger of dental problems loomed which might eventually prove lethal. Worse still, in her teens she rapidly developed scoliosis which could not be treated without exacerbating her other conditions.

Rarest and most dangerous of all was her primary pulmonary hypertension. This condition first manifested itself when she was two and one-half years old. Fortunately, at that moment the Great Ormond Street Hospital opened an experimental clinic which provided Sophia with the newest medications. There was never any question of curing the disease, only of slowing its progression; but without their remarkable success in lengthening her life very little of what is recorded below would have been possible.

All told, Sophia's life was a continuous cycle of blood tests, doctor's appointments, and hospital check-ups. But – and this is the more extraordinary thing – it would be completely inadequate to define this little girl by her problems and limitations; for with these disabilities were intimately coupled even more extraordinary abilities which also put her completely outside the norm, at least for those who knew her well enough to see them.

Our first full family photo, 25 December 2002

Perhaps the clearest example of this coupling of abilities and disabilities was apparent only to those who knew her literally day and night: namely, her parents. Her sleep was extremely difficult: whenever she lay down and fully relaxed, her airways shrank, depriving her of much-needed oxygen. For almost her entire life, she had to choose between sleeping and breathing. Watching Sophia's struggles to find a position in which she could do both simultaneously, we often thought that no normal person could endure for a single hour what she tolerated every night of her life.

But here is the turning point of this brief portrait: Sophia never complained. She tolerated this affliction with infinite patience, which was extraordinary enough; but somehow she also managed to accept it, to transcend it, to rise above it. At any rate she could often be heard talking and laughing to herself as she tried to get off to sleep late in the evening; and we sometimes woke in the middle of the night to hear her singing to herself upstairs.

So here we encounter the first of several quite extraordinary virtues: inexhaustible patience, endurance, and courage. What could possibly have produced this patience, endurance and courage in such a physically frail person? The best answer we can find is in the second cluster of virtues: a certain kind of selflessness and contentment which appeared to arise from a lack of envy.

Perhaps Sophia's chief blessing was that she never compared herself with others, or with an imagined state of perfection to which she thought herself entitled. This was a stroke of utter genius, which enhanced her well-being immeasurably. Here we encounter a wisdom which is not of this world, at least in the sense that it escapes the inclination to envy so deep-seated in human nature.

This second set of virtues was reciprocally related to a third: her remarkable capacity to extract happiness from the very simplest of things. Sophia did not compare herself unfavourably with others in part because she had a fundamental ability which so many of us lack: namely, an extraordinary capacity to extract the maximum happiness out of the few simple things which she was capable of doing. And what she could do, she loved. A few activities were out of doors: visiting the local play park and adventure playground, feeding the ducks at the pond on the way, swimming (in the arms of her family) at the local pool, or riding in a child seat or tag-along behind her father's bicycle. Some were social and public: she loved her school days and the weekend ballet class which she attended for many years. When asked what her favourite thing was, she replied, 'Sound of Music at the theatre!' For many years, she served at Mass every Sunday, and doing so was one of the chief delights of her short life. This role played to all her strengths: it was non-verbal, performative, ritualised, public, important, and clearly an act of service both to the officiating priest and to the parish community.

Other favourite activities were indoors, and played to her strengths as a very good visual learner: completing surprisingly complicated puzzles, writing and reading with a fluency one could not have expected given her very limited verbal abilities, watching and

Sophia and Francesca

rewatching her favourite videos, and listening endlessly to music – which communicates meaning without words.

But the fourth and most important of her extraordinary capacities was the ability to give and receive love. This ability alone more than compensated for all the disabilities, and blessed Sophia – despite everything – with an extraordinarily happy life.

Perhaps the most eloquent documentation of this in our entire photo archive is the picture of her with her brother John, just after his return from a week in Italy. She may have lacked words, but no words could possibly express her happiness at this reunion more eloquently than her little face.

Brother John returns from Italy

Most eloquent of all was something that no camera can capture: the experience of looking into Sophia's eyes, upon returning home after a whole day of separation at school and work. She retained that gaze of perfect innocence and purity we all know from looking deep into the eyes of a baby, but to this she added three other things no baby is capable of: the awareness that she is one, unique, self-conscious person looking into the eyes of a separate, unique, self-conscious person; the awareness that the other person is reflecting back to her the outpouring of love that they see in her eyes; and the awareness that she is reflecting theirs back the same thing to them. It was, quite simply, the most beautiful thing in the world.

We would like to end with the words of her younger sister, Francesca – words which best capture what Sophia was for our family. Sophia "shaped the way we lived our lives in the past and the present, and will shape it in the future. She was so precious not because of what she lacked but because of what she had to give to her family and friends. She gave courage, love, and strength to fight for herself, and keep the connection our family and friends shared with her until the end. If someone who wasn't as close to my sister was asked who out of me and Sophia was the strongest, they would probably not choose the girl with a learning difficultly and a lethal heart condition over the girl who hasn't been hospitalised since the day she was born. I might be perfectly capable of running as fast as I want to, or travelling wherever I want to, or being or saying whatever I want to. But in reality, and in my eyes, Sophia was much stronger and braver than I could ever be. Even though every day was a struggle for her, she never stopped smiling. I often found myself bragging about my sister to my friends in school. She was truly the one I looked up to. I respect her more than ever and I see her as a hero."

In summary Sophia was a little person with special needs – but also and far more importantly – with very special gifts. The greatest of these gifts was the capacity to love other people spontaneously and in doing so to evoke their love in return. Thanks to this gift, she experienced true bliss repeatedly, frequently, on a daily and hourly basis, and lived an extraordinarily happy and fulfilling life.

Last full family photo, 28 January 2018

Training

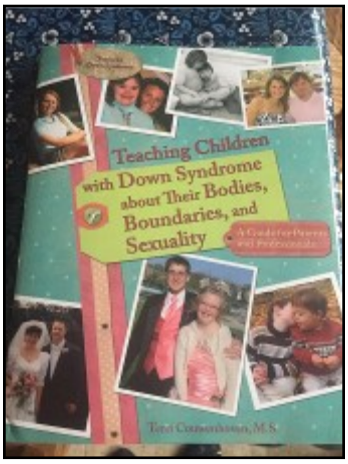
Elsa Gill, *Training Organiser,* writes:

‘Growing Up’ Training for Parents

In November we ran a training course for parents at the Kassam Stadium. 'Growing up', delivered by Inclusively Down, was a training day that explored practical activities to help support and teach our children social skills such as appropriate touch, stranger danger, socially appropriate behaviour, independence in self-care and how to develop friendships.

The overriding message from the training was that our children aren't always able to pick up social skills organically so we often need to teach them. It can help to lay the groundwork when young by introducing the language they may need during their trickier teenage years. For example, labelling 'private' and 'public' places around the home can help to make the job of teaching them which behaviours should be done in private much easier. Also, labelling different feelings they experience, as they happen, can help them to understand a much wider range of emotions as they grow up.

Following the training, DSO bought four new books, which parents can borrow from the Abingdon Carousel Family Centre, home to our Early Development Groups.



World Down’s Syndrome Day

How will you be celebrating WDSD on Thursday 21st March?

World Down’s Syndrome Day is fast approaching and DSO have been looking at ways to make it easier for us all to celebrate the day in our children’s schools and local communities. WDSD is also one of our major fundraising opportunities this year.

To help, we have created a WDSD Awareness and Fundraising Pack. The packs include:

- ⇒ A4 Posters - for raising awareness of WDSD & your fundraising efforts
- ⇒ A5 Leaflets - for desk and bag drops in class or at work
- ⇒ Folding cardboard collection box - for easy gathering of cash donations
- ⇒ A fundraising ideas sheet - some great tips and ideas for raising money, raising awareness or speaking to your school or classmates about DS
- ⇒ Optional DSO merchandise - DSO wristbands, balloons etc.

We’d love to hear how you all get on. Do share your photos and stories with us and we’ll feature them in the next edition of the newsletter: newsletter@dsoxford.org.uk

Fundraising and Donations

The following monies have been donated or received during fundraising events for DSO in the last five months, for which we are extremely grateful

Circles UK	**£20.00**
Coventry Building Society Christmas Fundraising	**£224.00**
Mr Finn the Butcher Social Club Collection Box	**£67.51**
Kidlington Green Social Club Collection Box	**£85.00**
Fundraising through Paypal	**£27.00**
Fundraising through Amazon Smile	**£71.08**
Continued fundraising income from 21-Walkathon	**£430.00**
Blackbird Leys Bowls Club	**£315.00**
Islip Lodge	**£100.00**
Caroline Ford Sales of WDSD awareness badges	**£50.00**

The **DSO Lottery** continues to bring in funds of **£120.00 per month**.

Rivernut continue to support DSO with a quarterly **£30.00** donation.

Also a huge thank you to all those that give regularly to the charity via a monthly standing order donation.

If you are making a donation via our justgiving page please email treasurer@dsoxford.org.uk so I can look out for it and make sure we can show our appreciation.

Sarah Fonge, *Treasurer*

A big thank you to DSO's community partner Coventry Building Society, Cowley Branch. Pictured is Stephanie Sawyer handing over a cheque for £224 to Jos from their Christmas raffle. Stephanie and the Cowley Branch Team have been wonderful supporters of DSO since 2012 and also helped with last years Walkathon.

We are happy to announce they will be supporting us for World Down's Syndrome Day 2019! We are extremely grateful for their continued involvement and support.

At the end of January, Jo Crawford and family were invited to the **Blackbird Leys Bowls Club** to collect a cheque on behalf of DSO. The club held a fundraiser that **raised an amazing £315!** A big thank you to Nicola and everyone involved.

Thank you very much to **Will Drummond and his parents, Monique and Pete Drummond**. Instead of receiving Christmas presents Will asked his parents to donate to DSO, so they made a very generous donation of £250. Here is Will pictured with gorgeous Bill.

down's syndrome oxford

Gift Aid Declaration

Please tick appropriate response:

☐ I would like DSO to reclaim the tax on all donations I've made since April 2000 and all my future donations until further notice. I understand that I must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax DSO reclaims on my donation(s).

☐ I am not a UK tax payer

I enclose my gift of £ ________________ (Cheque/PO payable to Down's Syndrome Oxford)

Or

A regular gift of £ ________________ per month/quarter/year (please delete as appropriate)

Commencing on the _________ (day) ___________ (month) ___________ (year)

Name of bank: ____

Address of bank: ____

____ Postcode: ________________

Account No.: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Sort Code: _ _ - _ _ - _ _

Signature: ____ Date: ______ / ______ / _____

Bank Ref:	(Completed by DSO)

Bank Instructions: please pay the above amount on the same day every month/quarter/year (as indicated) thereafter to Lloyds Bank (30-94-04) for the account of Down's Syndrome Oxford (a/c 01154094).

Please return this form to **Down's Syndrome Oxford**, not your bank, c/o Treasurer, Manor Farm, Waterperry, Oxfordshire, OX33 1LB

We will not share your information with any other organisations:

Your name: ____

Your address: ____

____

Postcode: ____

Registered Charity No. 1103850

Contacts

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With thanks to First Move Direct Marketing in High Wycombe who generously print and distribute our newsletter free of charge.

The deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is <u>Friday 28th June 2019</u>. We welcome text or photos about your child enjoying themselves—not necessarily a DSO event. Please send materials to the editor Lucy Sanderson at newsletter@dsoxford.org.uk