

Stepping Stones DS



Newsletter

December 2017

Supporting children and young people with Down syndrome and their families, one step at a time



In this Christmas edition read about our **AGM**, a fantastic donation from the **Co-Operative, Fleet**, the Stepping Stones DS **Christmas Party**, the upcoming **Peter Pan Pantomime** in January and learn how easily you can raise money for us every time you shop with [Easy Fundraising](#)

Our Christmas Party



On Saturday 2nd December we held our **annual Christmas party at [The Mad House Reading](#)**. 33 families attended, including around 70 children (both members and siblings). The children all enjoyed the soft play, and especially a visit from Santa.

We would like to thank [Waitrose](#) in Farnham, Guildford and Godalming for their generous donation of advent calendars for the children.

his trusty Elf to the party.

Thank you again to The Mad House Reading for hosting the party.



Thank you to the Co-Operative, Fleet



Over the last six months we have been asking you to vote for us in the **Co-op Local Community Fund**. Co-op donate 1% of their sales to benefit local charities and we were thrilled to be chosen as one of three in the last round.

Delighted to share that due to your support, we received a cheque on Saturday morning for **£5490.88** from Co-op in Fleet.

Thank you to everyone who voted, to the members who attended the cheque presentation and a big thank you to Co-op for this generous donation which will be used to fund our popular preschool therapy groups.

Easy Fundraising



Did you know we are registered with [Easy Fundraising](#)? It's a quick and easy way to raise money for Stepping Stones DS when you make a purchase online.

If you haven't signed up already, this is a great time to do it ready for Christmas shopping!

Join easyfundraising and you 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. To sign up - [click here!](#)



Join Shop Raise **Collect FREE funds for us** any time you shop with  **easyfundraising** feel good shopping  **Sign up now**

Our AGM



On Monday 27th November we held our AGM at our office at Sentinel House, Our chair, Sarah Sutton, talked through some of the challenges and achievements of the past year. You can read the full annual report here:

[Annual](#)

[Report](#)

[2016-17](#)

There were many highlights including the fact that we have had an excellent year for fundraising, [covering our costs for the first time in 3 years](#) thanks to some proactive grant applications, some fantastic partnerships and as always fantastic efforts by a huge number of individuals, families, schools and supporters.

Sarah also spoke about our 3 year plan and our aims for 2020 following our strategy day in September. We are restructuring the way we manage SSDS behind the scenes to ensure we have the right people, knowledge and experience to continue building a sustainable and future proof SSDS, providing appropriate services, support and activities to our ever growing and maturing membership. To help us achieve this we are recruiting two additional trustees to take our team to 11. The trustees will be split into two teams managing Operations and Governance.

We went on to say huge thank you to all our trustees and especially to those standing down. We are delighted two members put themselves forward for election [Sarah Erskine](#) and [Jon Qualters](#), and two non-members [Liz Phillipou](#) and [Simon Blyghton](#). They join Rob Barton, Jackie Fletcher, Jacky McKenzie, Karen Powell, Despina Papadimitriou, Vicki Nixon and Sarah Sutton to make up our new trustee team.

Peter Pan Pantomime - January

PETER PAN

we are delighted to once again be returning to the [Hexagon](#) to see Cbeebie's superstar **Justin Fletcher** as Mr Smee in Peter Pan. He will be joined by **Paul Morse** donning another array of fantastic frocks as Nanny McSmee.

The demand for tickets to **Peter Pan** by our members was very high this year and we look forward to seeing the show with 247 Stepping Stones DS family members.



And Finally . . .



We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy & Healthy New Year

Donate

Stepping Stones is an entirely volunteer led group and it costs £6,000 per month to maintain our current services.

If you would like to make a donation please send an email to fundraising@steppingstonesds.co.uk or visit our [Virgin Money Giving](#) page



Training: 2nd February

*Developing numeracy skills for
school
age children with Down syndrome*

This practical training day, delivered by [Becky Baxter of LETS Go!](#), includes the development of numeracy skills in children with Down syndrome and reviews the profile of strengths and difficulties in relation to numeracy. It covers strategies and activities to develop and review number skills as well as the functional use of number skills in everyday activities. The day will review Numicon which is designed to develop the understanding of number ideas and number relationships that are essential for

and measuring appropriate targets.

To book email

training@steppingstonesds.co.uk



We rely entirely on donations and fundraising by members, family, friends and supporters. Thank you for your continued support of Stepping Stones DS.

With special thanks to :

TempCover, Fleet Morris, Hampshire Hospitals NHSFT, St Neot's Preparatory School, The Co-Operative Fleet, Paul Cousins, Denise Elkes, Sandra Hornblow, Phillip Mead, Jon Mewett & Janet Moore.

Stepping Stones DS, Sentinel House, Harvest Crescent, Fleet, GU51 2UX
Registered Charity 1129201



Contact us:

Tel: 01252 417014

Email: enquiries@steppingstonesds.co.uk

Website: www.steppingstonesds.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/steppingstonesds

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