

News update

July 2014



From the chair

On 23 June we held our AGM at Oxford City Football Club.



Sarah Stevenson had decided to stand down as Treasurer, so we held an election and **Sarah Hazell** was duly voted in as our new Treasurer. Sarah Hazell has a daughter aged 20 who has Down's Syndrome, so we hope she will bring the benefit of her experience to our committee meetings. We are very grateful to Sarah Stevenson for all the work she has done over the past few years.

I would also like to **thank every single person who helps make DSO what it is** – whether it is fundraising, organising events, helping new families, or just coming along to enjoy friendship, we couldn't do it without you.

At the AGM we reviewed our activities over the past year, and I am delighted to report that **we have achieved nearly 75% of our aims that we identified at the AGM in 2013.** This year we spent some time thinking about projects we would like to work on, and brainstormed some ideas, which included:

- More **training** – for professionals and parents
- **Outings for siblings**
- **Awareness events** to coincide with DS Awareness week (March 2015)
- Create our own **photo journal/exhibition** of our children
- Liaise with Maggie Woodhouse (**eye specialist** based in Bristol) for advice/consultations
- **Unity events** – barn dance/disco
- Create links between **parents** of different age groups to share advice/information

If you were not able to come to the AGM but have ideas, or would like to help with any of the above, then **please contact any of the committee.** Details are on the website.

This is a short news update and **we aim to have our regular newsletter returning during the autumn** with reports of recent activities, news stories from families, information, etc, so if anyone has anything they would like to contribute please contact Andrew Dubock at media@dsoxford.org.uk The deadline for the next edition is overleaf.

We hope to see you at the Summer Party on 12th July (see below) or our **next committee meeting on Monday 14th July at the Turnpike Inn, Yarnton, 7.45pm.** Enjoy the summer!

Katharine Horrocks

DSO Summer Party
Saturday 12th July 2014 from midday
at Waterperry Shooting Ground

There will be plenty of cover, so come along rain or shine. **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: COLONEL CUSTARD 1.15 TO 3.00pm** Followed by music and dancing in the marquee until late. Bring a picnic or food to BBQ (BBQs will be set up to use after the entertainment.) Some refreshments will be available but you will need to bring drinking water.

If you wish to camp on Saturday night please contact Sarah Fonge by email sarahfonge@hotmail.co.uk

For directions go to waterperryshooting.co.uk/findus.html

For your diary... two socials coming up soon. Please reply ASAP if you can come!

Sunday 20 July:

The Primary Club is off to the Falconry Experience at Millets Farm Falconry Centre.

The session will start at 10.30am, but please arrive 10 minutes before. The experience lasts 1 hour with a general flying display at 11.30. Your entry is valid all day so you can go and explore the farm.

Contact Kelly at primary@dsoxford.org.uk

Saturday 30 August:

The Unity Club is planning a trip to Thomley Hall from 10am to 3.30pm.

This trip is open to DSO families who have a child/young adult/adult with Down's Syndrome of any age and their siblings.

Activities include ball pit, arts and crafts, bikes, swings, zip wire, music shed, sandpit, running/cycling track, climbing wall and dress up room.

Other events that need to be booked for are the sensory room (8 children per half an hour) and for the older children/young adults we plan to hold a Summer 'Mocktail' making session! This will promote fresh fruit and healthy living all with some glamorous cocktail umbrellas and flashy straws.

Please all bring your own lunch/drinks/snacks. We would like to ask £10 per family (that includes all siblings). Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Names of all adults and children who want to attend needed and whether you want to do the Sensory and/or Mocktail.

Contact Sarah on sarah.stevenson68@yahoo.co.uk

Stay and Play...

is continuing over the summer: every Wednesday between 9.30-12 at South Abingdon Children's Centre. EDGs start again on 10 September.

EDG teacher wanted

DSO is recruiting a leader to run one of the Early Development Groups, which are held weekly at South Abingdon Children's Centre.

Working alongside Colette Lloyd, you will run sessions for pre-school age children, and would be expected to prepare appropriate materials.

Ideally, we are looking for someone with:

- some knowledge of child development and children with Down's Syndrome
- a friendly, professional, yet approachable manner
- a good knowledge of Makaton signing
- the ability to give support to parents, and empower them to aid their child's development

Training and support will be provided. This is a paid position. **If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Katharine Horrocks at chair@dsoxford.org.uk by 1 August 2014.**

Three Peaks Challenge

On Friday 11 July, five men from Didcot including DSO dads **Paul Gander and Andy Lawson** are doing the 24-hour Three Peaks Challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) to raise money for DSO and for two other charities. To sponsor them go to justgiving.com/teams/thethreepeaks2014

Latest DSO Lottery Winners

March

1st Mary Robinson (£39)
2nd Nigel Orman (£23.40)
3rd Joe Coleman (£13.60)

April

1st Sally Dubock (£42)
2nd Mary Robinson (£25.20)
3rd Pippa Rees (£16.82)

May

1st R&G Lane (£42)
2nd Jenny Dilnot (£25.20)
3rd K&M Horrocks (£16.80)

June

1st Miss W Parker (£42)
2nd Sally Dubock (£25.20)
3rd Will Foulds (£16.80)

To join: set up a monthly payment to DSO Lottery (account 2978 6768; sort code 30 80 45). £5 for one ticket or £10 for two and send an email to lottery@dsoxford.org.uk We will then allocate your numbers.

Website: <http://www.dsoxford.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dsoxford>

General enquiries email address: info@dsoxford.org.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DownsOxford> @DownsOxford

Registered charity number: 1103850

With thanks again to First Move direct marketing in High Wycombe who very generously prints and mails our newsletter free-of-charge.

The deadline for the November 2014 issue is Monday 22 September. We welcome any text or photos about your child enjoying themselves – not necessarily at a DSO event. Please send material to the editor Andrew Dubock at media@dsoxford.org.uk