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The ever popular annual Christmas party attracted a total of 18 families. This year we had sufficient funds to hire an entertainer and the children thought he was the best thing since sliced bread! Volunteers were able to focus on the raffle, food preparation, Xmas decorations, lucky dip communicating with the parents & a bit of fun too.



The finale of the Christmas party saw Santa arrive with the usual galore of presents but children were so excited by the amazing snow machine he almost went un-noticed!!! The children were delighted to receive their presents- Thank you Santa for visiting us!

We received positive feedback from parents saying how much they enjoyed the party and how impressed they were with the efficient team of Volunteers- Many thanks to them for giving up their valuable time to be part of our party! And the biggest thanks goes as always to Stephanie Edwards who did a brilliant job organising the party. The next Christmas party is booked at the same venue for Saturday 12th December. See you then!



Editor's Welcome

Happy New Year to all our families and friends!

Wow! Snow! Whether it's the right snow, wrong quantities or not, it's exciting for many of our little ones who have never seen snow before and some of us who haven't seen so much for 18 years! Did you make a snowman or go for walks and have fun identifying the trees in their icy splendour? Or something else? Please do share with us your stories and photos!

Take care! Ed

Ed's email coda@deaf-access.co.uk



CoDPUK's AGM

Members were invited to our AGM on 31st January at Deaf Access to discuss what they want and the future of CoDPUK.

We discussed partnerships, funding, current trends and expansion beyond the SE of England but currently we do not have the resources.

In the end the consensus of opinion was that we should carry on as we are, as families are supporting us. We therefore all agreed to stick with our current format & plan a programme similar to 2008.

The AGM as a 'stand alone' meeting was not so well attended, so we will revert to having the AGM on the same day as the Christmas party so more members can attend. Hope to see you there!



CoDPuk Diary Family Events

2009 dates

See website for full details nearer the event

Family Treasure Hunt Walk; Bracknell Forest Lookout centre.
May 10th

Informal Family Picnic day Virginia Water Lake.
July 12th

Margate Beach Day!
Summer Holidays TBC

Save these dates;

Sunday 4th October
TBC Activity day!

Saturday 12th December
Christmas Party & AGM - East Horsley



Deaf Parenting UK Conference
Friday 12th June 2009
in London.

Education, Education, Education which covers Child-care, Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools.

See website or contact for details- **SMS:07789 027186 (text only) E-Fax: 0871 2643323 Email: info@deafparent.org.uk**

Love is....what children think; 'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' Billy - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy & she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' Danny - age 7

Editor's Corner

Hello!

—why not send us your letters and articles for inclusion? If you had a good time in the snow why not tell us all about it? Did your children build a snowman? Share your pictures!

CoDPUK is for you r charity- please send your photos or stories for our next newsletter .

Hope to hear from you soon! Bye for now! *Ed*

Please send all letters/ articles /emails to

codpuk@gmail.com or

coda@deaf-access.co.uk

Thanks to Our Volunteers and Organisers

Brilliant, Willing and Enthusiastic ...yep we are talking about our fantastic team of volunteers; we couldn't run our events without them!

Special thanks to Stephanie who organised the Christmas party, Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us, David & Jean Hewitt, and the families who attended- it all helped make our Christmas Party loads of fun!

Thanks!

Contact us!

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CoDPUK Committee News

Wanted- Committee members!

Do you have a passionate belief in what we do, skills and some time to spare?

Sadly, after four year's diamond service (well Gethin was sterling & they can't be the same!) Claire



Ingham has regretfully stepped down as Secretary and as a Trustee. She has

been with us from the very beginning, part of the team who helped set up CoDPUK with a strong social focus for families. She also regularly put together the newsletters. However, that's not all....she has lost her hair for us....remember her fantastic hair shaving fund raiser? Plus, she even rode her bike until she dropped from heat ex-

haustion in May! That's dedication! So, a very special thank you to Claire- for everything!

Press Release! Chair David Ingham; 'I am pleased to announce that Helen Farthing has agreed to become Trustee Secretary of CoDPUK. Welcome aboard Helen and we hope you will enjoy the challenge and become a valued part of CoDPUK in the coming years.'



Stephanie Edwards We are sorry to say Stephanie is stepping down from the Committee -she will be greatly missed as Xmas parties under her guidance are legendary! She has made an outstanding contribution to CoDPUK in the last 4 years and we hope that she will return at a later date!

Thanks Stephanie!

Do you or your children have an enquiring mind? Do you enjoy free family events?

Then the Science Museum in London is the place for you! They have monthly programmes of BSL signed events for families that have deaf or hard of hearing members. These events are on the First Saturday of every month, free of charge with a fully qualified BSL Interpreter.

Topics include exploring space and the world of roaring rockets, stories of how Elijah McCoy changed the way trains work and live shows all about the science of explosions!

The Science Museum advocate the importance of families having fun by learning together and feel that this is the best way for young children to get the most out of their visit.

These events are split into three different times slots - The Tour, Storytelling & The Show but have limited spaces. Therefore you do need to book ahead to ensure a place.

For more information go to the Science Museum's website: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/events/



National charity, Citizens Advice has launched its first ever YouTube advice video for the Deaf Community.

Signed in British Sign Language (BSL) and with subtitles, by a profoundly deaf CAB advisor Ernesto Bueno Del Carpio, the four minute film is a basic introduction into what Citizens Advice does and how it can help advise on debt or discrimination issues.

Ali Harris, Programme Manager: Equality and Diversity, said, "It is important that Deaf people and those with hearing impairments feel able to use their local bureau and get advice - whatever their problem. We hope this YouTube video will help that happen".

View the video, on <http://uk.youtube.com/CitizensAdvice>

you can find information about your local Citizens Advice Bureau at:

Local Library, The Yellow pages (under C) or www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Trustees

David Ingham (*Chair*)

Anthony Clarke (*Treasurer*)

Helen Farthing (*Secretary*)

Committee Members

Wendy Anderson

Bronwynne Buxton

Susan Craney

Leslie Culver

Consultants

Roger Hewitt

Gethin Thomas