



Issue 1, Spring 2005

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CoDPuk Officially Launched

The afternoon of Saturday 29th January 2005 saw some 110 people gathered at WAMDSAD, Maidenhead for the Launch of CoDPuk. Thanks to our generous supporters, it proved a lavish and hugely successful event.

The greatly popular Trampoline, Giant Jenga and, thanks to Kim Waine-Thomas, CoDPuk Creative Director, craft activities kept the young (and not so young) entertained. Several volunteers had to be drafted in to meet the demands for butterfly and spiderman faces. As Kim enthused, "the children had a great time creating weird, wonderful, even scary Venetian masks".

Formal proceedings were opened by Reg Cobb, Chair of CoDPuk, who emphasised that the notion that "Deaf Parents *can* be good parents to hearing children" is the underlying ethos of CoDPuk, which needs to be seen as "a positive organisation". The Rt. Hon. Theresa May, MP for Maidenhead and Shadow Secretary of State for the Family then added very en-



CoDPuk Committee Members with Rt. Hon Theresa May, MP.

couraging words of support, acknowledging that mainstream provision "catered for Deaf Children but had forgotten Deaf Parents". She finished her speech by declaring how CoDPuk could take on a vital role in helping to fill this gap in services.

Following the speeches, the new logo was revealed publicly for the first time. As the logo appeared on a screen, the Committee Members simultaneously whipped off their t-shirt covers to proudly display the logo.

The scrumptious logo-ed cake was brought out and glasses of wine passed around to toast CoDPuk. Ilana Rossi, logo designer,

was presented with champagne to hearty applause and showing of hands.

As the pre-recorded words and signs of support from Sue Daniels, Chair, National Deaf Children's Society, were played, a group of children gravitated towards the cake. First one hand, then another and another sneaked towards the iced edge... No matter, there was plenty for all!

Claire's close crop (see below) rounded things off light-heartedly as the refreshments were devoured. Everyone left with a flyer of forthcoming CoDPuk events and a huge grin on their face.

CoDPuk Diary

Sat 30 April 2005
Treasure Hunt and Family Fun Day.
CoDPuk's first event for families. Come and join us!

Sat 16 July 2005
Harry Potter Fun Day.
Enjoy a bit of fantasy and take away useful tips to make reading with your child FUN.

Summer 2005
Music Workshop.
Yes, Deaf parents CAN support children with their music development! Here's how.

Other dates to follow.

A Close Crop for Claire

When the question of fundraising first arose, shaving a Committee member's head was suggested.

Silence descended and eyes swiveled, daring each other. At last a hand shot up, "I'll do it! We may even raise more if

a GIRL does it."

So crazy Claire's fate was decided. After begging potential sponsors, a very respectable £900 was raised, just £100 short of the target. Following the launch ceremony, Yvonne and Stephanie

of CoDPuk bundled Claire on stage and, before she could even think of chickening out, Yvonne's proffered collection basket filled with £5, £10, even £20 notes.

The £1,000 mark exceeded, Claire gingerly sat and out came the clippers.

The result:



£1,200 raised thanks to you generous folks.

Contact us!

CoDPuk
PO Box 3272
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 4WW

contact@codpuk.org.uk
www.codpuk.org.uk



Sign with your baby and enjoy the conversation!

For further information about baby signing workshops, email:

kirsty@signbond.co.uk

Volunteers Wanted

The existing seven Committee Members are all working extremely hard and we would really appreciate any help from willing volunteers.

If you are able to spare some time to support CoDPuk's activities, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Tip of the Day:

Give someone a fish, they will eat for a day. Teach someone to catch a fish, they will eat for a lifetime.

Committee Members

Chair: Reg Cobb

Deputy Chair: Yvonne Cobb

Secretary: Claire Ingham

Treasurer: Gethin Thomas

Creative Director: Kim Waine-Thomas

Event Organiser: Stephanie Edwards

Committee Member: David Ingham

Thanks, CoDPuk Sponsors

CoDPuk would like to thank the following for their generous contributions:

- **WAMDSAD** for the loan of their excellent facilities for the launch party.

- **Outdoor Toys** for the loan of the trampoline and other games enjoyed by all.

- **ASDA, Slough and Sainsburys, The Brewery, Romford** for donations of food.

- **Kensington and Chelsea College** for holding the competition to design the logo.

- **Sue Holland** for the cake.

- **Gareth Gunn**— Videographer

- **John Wilson**— Photographer

- **All our volunteers** who helped at the launch.

Without you all, CoDPuk would not have had such a successful launch, huge thanks.

To date sponsor money (which will be used for CoDPuk events) raised from Claire's Close Crop stands at:

£1,200.00

Many thanks to the following for the greatly appreciated donations:

RAD: £250.00

CoDPuk, the beginnings...

When the seven of us initially met last September, little did we know what an exciting, sometimes challenging, journey we were embarking on...

Frustrated at the lack of specific support for *Deaf parents* and their *hearing children* we decided to do it ourselves! So CoDPuk was born.

Fortunate to have a variety of skills and contacts amongst us, we immediately busied ourselves creating an aim, mission statement and a draft events programme.

By Christmas we had a funky new logo, a fledgling website (in fact an ongoing development), mission

statement, ideas of events and a Launch date and venue.

January was spent frantically planning and organising the Launch Party. With lots of hard work, debate and pride in our presentation, the event was a success.

Now word is spreading and we are delighted to welcome old and new friends and families to our forthcoming events.

This year the plan is to pilot a few CoDPuk events in the South East before going nationwide. To help us plan for the future, please e-mail YOUR ideas and comments to CoDPuk, thanks.

See you soon!

Thoughts from Reg — CoDPuk Chair



Hello everyone and welcome to our first ever newsletter.

We are pleased to say that the new organisation 'Children of Deaf Parents uk' has been set up officially.

The committee has worked very hard in achieving this and we continue to do so for those who, we hope, will benefit from the work of CoDPuk.

Stop Press!

Reg, CoDPuk Chair, is to be interviewed by BBC See Hear!

Watch this space...

Lost Property!

One coat and one baseball hat left behind after the launch.

Contact us if it's yours.

Dilemma Corner

My hearing child recently started school. I really want to integrate with the other hearing parents but am finding this extremely difficult.

How can I become 'accepted'?

Can you help?

Please e-mail us your ideas and a selection will appear in the next newsletter.