



children of deaf parents uk Registered Charity No. 1114877

Issue 7 , Autumn 2006

Featured in this issue:

- *Tilegate Park Picnic*
- *Good News...*
- *And what's next*
- *CoDPuk Diary*
- *Fund-raising Drive*
- *Committee News*
- *Editor's Corner*

A Perfect Picnic in the Park

Just as the heatwave was ending, two dozen or so CoDPuk families gathered at Tilegate Park, Sussex. We actually found a lovely GREEN lawn which quickly became a picnic haven.

As little ones crawled or toddled around their relaxed, chatting parents, the older children soon organised an exciting game of rounders. Later on, several families took advantage of the facilities and entertainment on offer at the Park. There was a small animal



A relaxed English summer afternoon and what green grass!

park to entertain the little ones, gorgeous eco-Art to inspire and a maze to navigate, all for free. The café provided some very welcome refreshment and everyone finished up at the excellent play-park near the lake.

My two very energetic boys were fast asleep almost the minute their heads touched the head-rests in the car. They've been asking when the next CoDPuk event is since!

Apart from the fun of having a day out, it was

a fantastic opportunity for Deaf parents to meet and chat informally. As several parents commented how enjoyable the gathering was, it has been decided to



Lost in the maze, great fun.

hold a similar 'Picnic in the Park' annually in summer.

It was wonderful to see so many of you, roll on the Christmas Party.

Thanks to our Donors,

We are very grateful to **Lesley Macbeth** for donating the fee from the sale of a photograph, which will cover the cost of a parents' evening.

our Volunteers

Thanks to **Kim Waine-Thomas** for manning the e-contact desk since January so efficiently.

and our Supporters

Thanks to **Peter Merrifield**, Headteacher at Oak Lodge School for allowing CoDPuk to use the school address, so saving us the cost of a PO Box. And to the cheery school office staff for passing on the mail.



Eco Art - worth taking a look.

Good News!

CoDPuk is now a Registered Charity!

After six months of hard work by the Chair and Secretary, CoDPuk is delighted to announce that we have now gained

Registered Charitable Status. This is pretty good going—I know of one organisation that has been trying to achieve this for the past two years, possibly more. Hip Hip Hooray!

So, what's next?

Our next priority is **Fund-Raising**; being a Registered Charity will make it easier for CoDPuk to apply for more grants and other sources of funding.

Fingers crossed!

We are also looking into potential partnerships with similar, locally based organisations. All being well, CoDPuk could then reach more deaf parents and more events be run.

Editor's Corner

As I write this, the autumn colours are coming in to their full splendour. Although summer seems an age ago, Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Christmas will soon be upon us, bringing lots of family fun.

Speaking of family fun, it was fantastic to catch up with so many of you at the Tilegate Picnic and at various parents' evenings. As well as being a time of preparation for the next year, the autumn gives the Committee some breathing space to review the year's events. Generally, things are going well with the events programme, so most of the events will be



CoDPuk's High Flying Chair repeated with a couple of new ones added next year, bringing us all yet more family fun.

Aside from CoDPuk, Dave and I this summer celebrated our 10th Wedding Anniversary high in the skies, flying Cessnas. What an experience!

See you all in Dec, Claire

Contact us!

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CoDPuk Committee Round-up

Hello from the Committee!

On your behalf we are continuing to organise events and to keep CoDPuk running smoothly. There were cheers all round when we got the letter from the Charity Commission congratulating CoDPuk on gaining Registered Charitable Status.

Now that we have the events programme up and running, we are looking to develop other areas within CoDPuk. Firstly, and most importantly, we need more funds.

We would love to invite professional speakers to parents' evenings and organise workshops, such as First Aid and Self-defence, for deaf parents. But we need the funds...

We also need more man-

power to help run the events and raise money. Being a member of the Committee is great fun (we meet up to 4 times a year and there's cake and banter as well as the serious stuff), very rewarding and looks great on the old CV. Experience is helpful but not necessary—we will support you.



Is there anyone out there who is willing to 'muck in' and could spare a few hours a month? Please get in touch!

See you on Dec 16th, Dave.

Funds; why and how?

So, why do we keep saying we need more funds?

Everything costs money... here's an idea of where the money goes:

£50 will pay for one parents' evening workshop.

£100 will cover the cost of a Hall for an afternoon.

Or printing 100+ leaflets.

£250 will pay for Public Liability Insurance, plus basic administration costs of an outdoor event, such as the Treasure Hunt.

£500 will cover the costs of travel for the Committee members for one year (we haven't claimed any expenses yet!)

Or a professionally-run music workshop.

Or a professionally produced promotional display.

£1,000 will pay for Public Liability insurance for one full year.

At present we have less than £500 in our account and still have to pay for the Christmas Party...

The Committee have been sending out appeals letters (Thanks, Bron, your efforts are massively appreciated) and will be applying for carefully selected grants. We will also be organising local community fund-raising initiatives, **but we still need lots of help.**

Can YOU help with any of the following:

- donating prizes for the Christmas Party raffle?
- writing fund applications?
- organising a fund-raising event such as a car boot sale or coffee morning?
- selling stuff on eBay to raise funds?
- obtaining works by Deaf artists for auction?

Every bit helps!

CoDPuk Diary

Saturday 16th Dec 2006

Christmas Party!!!

Good old-fashioned family fun at East Horsley Village Hall, Surrey from 2pm until 5pm.

Members will be sent a booking form at the end of September (If you are a member and haven't had a form, please get in touch).

Non-members will be contacted at the end of October, provided there are spaces remaining.

Cost per family: £4 (members), £10 (non-members)

Parents' Evenings

Doors open at 7.30pm
Light refreshments provided.
Members: free.
Non-members: £1.50 or join CoDPuk on the night.

Next meeting: Feb / March 2007:
Cheese and Wine Party
Bromley, details to follow in the next newsletter (Jan 2007).

Future meetings... what do YOU want?

We need your ideas for future meetings—themes, venues and timings. For instance, would a Saturday be better than a Friday? Please let us know in person or drop us an e-mail.

Family Events for 2007

6th May 2007:
Treasure Hunt, Bracknell.

Summer Events:

Exact details to follow (we are working on these!), watch this space...

Picnic in the Park
Date and venue tba

Camping Weekend
Peak District, during the school summer holidays.

Trustees

David Ingham (*Chair*)
Gethin Thomas (*Treasurer*)
Claire Ingham (*Secretary*)

Committee Members

Bronwynne Buxton
Sue Craney
Stephanie Edwards
Roger Hewitt (*Consultant*)