

newsandviews

Wakefield Information Network

Issue 7 Summer 2011

Return of the Family Activities Grant

Following on from the success of last year, Wakefield Council are pleased to confirm the return of the Family Activities Grant. The news will be welcomed by families across the district, with the summer holidays fast approaching and purse strings being tighter than ever.

The scheme is once again being administered by KIDS WeSail. Grants are available for families living in the Wakefield District and caring for a disabled child. The funding can be used to pay for family activities or a short break.

Qualifying criteria for the grant mean that you must either be in receipt of the high rate Care Component of DLA, or be receiving the middle rate Care Component and need additional support in three or more of the following areas;

- Personal care and supervision
- Communication
- Access to social activities
- Education
- Specialist equipment
- Medical or therapeutic treatment/management considered.



Its that time of year again



What activities will you be doing this year?

However if you care for more than one child in receipt of DLA you will be eligible for a grant.

Like last year, grants of up to £150 are available, or £200 if the child is of high school age by September 1st 2011. Also staying the same is the variety of things the money can be spent on, including transport costs, admission tickets, domiciliary care from registered providers and places at registered holiday clubs.

Grants are still available for voluntary organisations and support groups to provide short breaks or activities for disabled children in the Wakefield District. However the amount of funding available has been reduced to a maximum of £3000.

All of the money is in a shared pot and funds are limited and approved on a first received basis. You're therefore advised to make your application without delay.

For further information or to request an application pack, please contact WeSail.

Call: 01924 379015

E-mail: aiminghg@kids.org.uk



We've Got Talent

Everyone had a fantastic time at the YOU'VE GOT TALENT event hosted by Full Body & The Voice in February at the Hudawi centre in Kirklees. 15 young people and their parents, from across the district took part in a morning of exciting drama games, activities, music and dance.

Everyone who came along received a goodie bag and two lucky people won some excellent prizes in the raffle. There were lots of lovely fairy cakes to end a really fun morning and a chance for the mums and dads to get their breath back after all the energetic games.

Best of all everyone who came along joined in with all the activities and proved that they really have got talent. Here are some of the parents and support workers thoughts of the morning... "Good fun, made me laugh." "Great participation & confidence building." "A very good event, very enjoyable." "Brilliant staff."

Full Body & The Voice deliver a wide variety of evening and school holiday activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities. To find out more about how you can get involved with their FREE youth theatre and holiday school groups contact **Sally Marshall** on **01484 484441**, E-mail: **sally.marshall@fullbody.org.uk** or visit **www.fullbody.org.uk**



Eat your heart out Simon Cowell!

Stanley Children's Centre



Stanley Children's Centre is holding a Play & Information session for Children with additional needs and their families who are living in Stanley, Outwood and Lofthouse areas.

Families are sure to receive a very warm welcome and can call in and spend as much or as little time as they like. There will be lots of lovely sensory equipment and toys for children to explore and discover. Staff from the Children's Centre together with other professionals will be on hand to offer help and support.



Sensory Den or inside of the Tardis? You decide!

Please come along and joins us on **Wednesday 13th July 2011** from **1:30pm to 3pm** at **Stanley Children's Centre, Long Causeway, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4JB**. For more information call **01924 303181**.

Disability Holidays Guide

Applied for your Family Activity Grant, (See cover story), but unsure of what to use it on? Perhaps this website can help.

Disability Holidays Guide offers details of a whole variety of accessible trips and breaks, ranging from Theme Parks, to Holiday Cottages and Cruises. The handy search tool enables you to specify exactly what you're looking for. So seeking inspiration? Then look no further.

Ackworth Group Riding For The Disabled

Ackworth Group of Riding for the Disabled has been established since 1976 and offers therapeutic riding for people of all ages with a wide range of additional needs. Riding has been shown to improve a large number of physical and mental conditions. It is a fun, healthy and very sociable activity. As well as new riders, helpers aged between 12 and 70, (for insurance purposes), are always welcome.

Thanks to funding from The Variety Club, the group have been able to unveil their new classroom facility, (See picture below). The new classroom was renovated and decorated courtesy of EON, with the final touches applied by the Duke of Edinburgh participants from Wasdale children's resource.



Back to school already?



There's always plenty of time for Horsing around



Rehearsals for The new adventures of Black Beauty?

The classroom facilities are available for hire to other groups and organisations. For further information about the group or to make a booking please contact **Karen Bullock** on **07852 141629** or **01977 794557**. Alternatively you can contact **Caroline Lancaster** on **01977 796720**.

Awake Mentoring Service

VOLUNTEER MENTORS WANTED – MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!



Awake Mentoring Service offers support to disabled people and people with long term health conditions or learning difficulties helping them to achieve their goals. Do you have experience of disability or illness yourself, or do you have an interest and commitment to supporting people and have a couple of hours a week to spare?

If the answer is 'yes' then we would like to hear from you. No qualifications are needed. Accredited training is provided, (optional), and out of pocket expenses paid.



Taking recyclable fashion to a new level



Barbara Hepworth's successors in training

Also thanks to its continuing success, we have been able to secure further funding for our Mentoring Service for young people aged 14-18 years old, who have a disability, impairment or a learning difficulty. The service offers individual partnerships for boys/ girls who need support with anything. For example someone to talk to, try a new activity with, meet new people and have fun. We are also welcoming new members wishing to join our girls group, which runs on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 7:30pm at our office at Somerset House, Asdale Road, Wakefield.

For more information please contact **Claire, Farzana** or **Geraldine** on **01924 256999** or E-mail: awakementoring@scope.org.uk

Meet Sharon King

Wakefield mum of three Sharon King has risen to prominence as a successful author of a children's book, but the journey hasn't been an easy one. Exclusively to News and Views, she reveals in her own words the challenges of parenting three children with additional needs, in her journey to fulfil a childhood dream.

My Imperfect Family

Since early childhood, I have nursed two ambitions, to be a mum, and to be a writer! Newly pregnant at 28, I anticipated being the "Perfect Mum". All kinds of random images were flashing in my naïve mind – reverting to wearing my hair in bunches, for example, or wearing colourful stripy jumpers in the style of a kids tv presenter. Smelling vaguely of apple crumble...

When my middle daughter, Daisy, was born in 2000 with a rare genetic disorder, severe learning disability and problematic health issues, my focus shifted dramatically. Now the challenge was to be a functioning mum, with any other ambition seeming a foolish daydream by comparison. Things changed again in 2005, when my youngest, Lenny, was diagnosed with classic autism. What next? Come on Fate, thought I, I'm ready for you. Fate's delayed response came by way of a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome for my beloved eldest, Rose, who was nine at the time. With no time for tears or that much needed breakdown, I cracked on.



Hail to the Kings

Like a tiger cub, (and with as much energy), Lenny grew at an alarming rate. With his penchant for stacking furniture in the middle of rooms, for weeing down the stairwell and smearing poo, my dreams of a graceful home sickened and died. Rosie grew quirky, funny and bizarre. She struggled socially, but revealed rare talents in art, music and drama, (I was appalled, these were all her own and nothing to do with me!) Daisy defied medical prediction and learned to walk just after her fifth birthday.

With a chaotic home life and a manic sense of humour, I did what any other sensible Mum in my position would do, and began to write about my experiences. I took the unusual fabric of my life and embroidered it with magic; turning my children into faeries, making them fly, and, in the absence of language, giving them telepathic powers. On holiday in a small village in Northumbria last year I stuck with the theme, and wrote a little faerie story; the place seemed so magical, I could almost see the faeries hiding in the dry stone walls, and riding on the low, bruised clouds. The magic seemed to work, because the press became interested in my work, and before I knew what was happening our family was featured on BBC's The One Show, with Rosie and I being invited to London for a live interview!

So, for the moment, the house remains in a state of chaos. The totem poles of furniture in the living room remain in situ, perhaps as a symbol of the quirky art that has saved my sanity. Mostly, I am filled with that calm, inevitable feeling that my little world is exactly as it was always meant to be.

Please visit www.sharonkingbooks.co.uk to purchase a copy of my children's book, **The Daily Journal of Arabella Crumblestone**. £1 from each sale will be donated to the National Autistic Society. And watch out for my second book, **The Unfinished Stories**, which is due to be released in **September!**

New Inclusive Park

The new fully inclusive Phys-cap Play Area at Temple Newsam park is being officially opened on Thursday 30th June at 11am. The Play Area features a wheelchair accessible maze & fort, wide slide, different style of swings, wide paths & sensory equipment. The park was created by a grant from Phys-cap, (a local Leeds based charity supporting children with disabilities). Other features include a 'Changing Places' toilet, more disabled parking and further interactive exhibits added to the farm. The grand opening will have a celebrity ribbon-cutting and other activities.

Disability Respect Training

Barnardo's Children's Advocacy and Participation Service, (CAPS), have been commissioned by WMDC to deliver training to their employees on the issues facing disabled children and young people. Barnardo's CAPS works in partnership with a local school, Highfield Special School and each year trains a group of pupils to co-facilitate the training. The training is workshop based and participatory.



The trainers have varied disabilities eg, autism, ADHD, hearing impairment and complex health needs. CAPs have developed the 'train the trainers' programme in order to build the young people's confidence and develop their role as trainers. This is adapted to take into account the individual needs of the young people and delivered within the school setting. The young people help to deliver the one day course and up to 18 people can attend the rolling programme which is organised 3 times a year. As part of the course staff make a pledge, then they attend a half day session 3 months later to share the progress of their pledge.



This programme has made a significant difference to the lives of children and young people who are taking part. It has built their confidence, self-esteem and speaking and listening skills. It has also given them skills for life by providing them with presentation, organisational and team building skills and also the ability to welcome attendees and administer sessions.

The young people have thrived on the responsibility given to them and have been empowered to the extent that a number of them have volunteered to do other activities. The main outcome is their confidence in interacting with adults and being respected as trainers. Some of the compliments showered upon the young trainers include "The young people who delivered the training were inspirational. I have never undertaken training like this before." "Good trainers, made to feel included." "Amazing, excellent."

The practitioners who attended the course stated that they have learned a lot from the young people and that they had gained respect of the young people's abilities. It helps in challenging attitudes and learning to listen. "The listening with care exercise was excellent in demonstrating the need to be conscious of our language/communication", said one practitioner.

If you work for WMDC and would like a **free** place on the course please contact **Barnardo's CAPS** on **01977 552493**

Wakefield Wildcats Disabled Supporters Association

With the new Super League season well underway, Wakefield Trinity Wildcats Disabled Supporters Association, (WTWDSA), is pulling out all the stops to get as many disabled fans as possible onboard. One of the new improvements has involved a number of volunteers undertaking RNIB training, in order to offer live audio description commentary of games to visually impaired supporters.

WTWDSA have also successfully gained funding to launch, 'Never Watch Alone'. This is a buddying scheme to help fans with a disability or additional needs, who ordinarily wouldn't be able to get to games, to be 'paired up' with an able-bodied buddy to help them out. A third initiative of a park and ride facility for disabled fans is also being considered. Currently the demand for disabled parking bays is greater than the spaces available.



For more information E-mail: WTWDSA@yahoo.co.uk or call **Chris** at Carers Wakefield & District on **01924 305544**.

Farewell to Aiming High

Aiming High for Disabled Children came about following the Disabled Children's Review, as part of the previous Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007. It aimed at improving services for disabled children in England. It committed the government to a 'transformation programme' for the delivery of services for disabled children and their families in England from 2008 – 2011.

The Wakefield District has seen many, many, new developments thanks to Aiming High and Wakefield Council. As Aiming High comes to an end we would like to thank Caroline Slater, (Project Co-ordinator, Joint Commissioning), who co-ordinated the Aiming High project in the district, for all her hard work over the years. As a result of the Government's spending cuts she will be moving on to a new role.

Caroline has been a fantastic advocate for families and comments from parents at the Parents Reference group show just how much families valued her open and honest approach and her dedication to a cause in which she had no personal vested interest. One parent stated that "the motto 'Aiming High' will remain synonymous with Caroline Slater for many years to come, as she has sought the best for all children and encouraged everyone to move away from their comfort zone and give things a go". We are delighted to hear that Caroline is staying within Family Services and will be working with Children's Centres and in the words of another parent "I am sure that in her new role Caroline will support and inspire as she has over many years".



This really was the sweetest way of expressing our sentiments.

We also say goodbye to the rest of the 'Aiming High' team including Julie Hutchfield who co-ordinated the capital budget from Aiming High, which was used to develop play facilities and changing places across the district, as she returns to her post in Children's Services. A special farewell also to Dawn Broadhead Information officer, who did the initial development of the Information Network and created the very first edition of this very newsletter. Of course they both did so much more than just the feats listed but their work has left a lasting benefit to families in the Wakefield District. Finally we must also say goodbye and thank you to Judith Thompson, Administrator, whom many of you will have seen at the Parents Reference Group events or spoken to on the phone. None of the team's many achievements would have been possible without Judith's tireless efforts and dedication.

And so the names and faces may have moved on, but their and indeed Aiming High's legacy will live on in the Wakefield District. This has been further illustrated by the fact that several services which were supported by funding from Aiming High, including Barnardo's Get Started, Scope's Awake Mentoring Service and WeSail, continue to be supported by funding from Wakefield Council.

Change means that new faces come in, along with fresh ideas and innovations. News and Views is pleased to introduce Andy Simpson who has taken on the new post of Team Manager for Children Services, with responsibility for Specialist Services, Health and Social care. We will be speaking to Andrew in the next issue and finding out his plans and ambitions for disabled children's services in the Wakefield District. So stay tuned to News and Views for this exclusive article.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Achievement

2010 proved to be a challenging year for a group of young people from Wakefield Short Break Services! Seven young people completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze level. This was the first year young people and staff have worked towards this award and everyone involved found it most enjoyable and fulfilling.

Part of the award involved the young people creating a colourful sensory garden at Wasdale Resource Centre as well as learning new skills and sports, resulting in them improving their fitness and independence. The highlight of their award work was going on an expedition to the Penistone area! This involved going camping for two separate overnight stays, where the young people had to plan and carry out two three hour walks, erect tents, cook outdoors and take photos to record their experience of 'Life in the country'.



Morning Campers!

On the first trip the weather was not very favourable, with high winds and pouring rain, but all the young people remained positive and enthusiastic. They were rewarded by lovely sunshine on the second trip, as well as a well deserved ice cream after their walk!!



Tea time!

The young people were assessed throughout and attended a district ceremony at Castleford Civic Centre to collect their award certificates. They were also invited to have tea with the Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield, in their chambers at the Town Hall!

This year another seven young people are working towards their Bronze Award and three are moving on to their Silver! Well done everyone concerned and thanks to Mark Rowbottom for the photo with the Mayor.

Little Owls Summer Play Scheme

Little Owls Children's Centre in South Kirkby will be running a Summer Play Scheme for 2-5 year olds with additional needs. The scheme runs from the 8th to the 12th of August and times are 10am until 2pm.

There is a charge of £20 for the week and there will be a whole host of activities including a Bouncy Castle, Sensory Play, Arts & Crafts and Singing & Music.



Sunny, swirly, sensory fun



Slippy, slimey, Snakes to see

For further details and an application form please contact Little Owls Children's Centre on 01977 723868

KIDS Events

On Saturday 19th February a number of families from across the district were invited to go on a journey "Around the World. The journey departed from The Base in Pontefract and all travellers were given a Passport to log their journey. The voyage provided travellers with a chance to visit the North Pole, Europe, the Amazon, The Orient, India, Hawaii, Egypt, Story Book Land and Outer Space.

There were a whole host of games and activities in each area, including Fishing in Hawaii, Sand and a Pyramid to explore in Egypt and a Rocket ship and Sensory Space Station in the cosmos. Alongside this, there were also tasty treats to sample from across the globe. Shabang were also on hand to provide some nautical themed fun and music and there were some superbly creative Henna painters in India.



Yaar, Pirates ahoy



All shapes and sizes were represented



We had a lovely bunch of Coconuts

Tuesday 31st May provided opportunity for a dual celebration. As part of National Family Week, KIDS took the opportunity to celebrate their 40th Birthday party, with a fantastic family fun day, also at The Base.

A wide range of games and activities were on offer, including a Coconut Shy, Sensory Den, Penalty Shoot out and Pick a Lolly game. There were also plenty of prizes on offer for all of the participants. In addition there were a number of activities provided by external providers, including a Bouncy Castle and Slide and a Zumba workshop. No Birthday party would be complete without Birthday cake and all attendees were able to have a delicious slice.

KIDS would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their support and donations in making this event successful. B & M Stores Wakefield, The Entertainer Wakefield, Helen's Underwear Wakefield, Coca Cola Enterprises Ltd, Heron Foods Wakefield, Co-op Supermarket Ackworth, Hiniitts Bakery Ackworth, Julia Schofield of Stanley Day Nursery, The Fireworks Store Wakefield, CG Studio Zumba & Kiddie Yoga, Num Num Ice Cream, Wakefield Council, International Produce and Costco Leeds.

Barnardo's Get Started Small Grants

Barnardo's 'Get Started' have been allocated £4000 to distribute in amounts of up to £300 per group, to be spent before the 31st March 2012. The money is to be used by mainstream groups to make them more inclusive of young people with disabilities and additional needs. It can therefore be used for things like equipment and training for group leaders on disability issues.

For more information contact **Chris Ashworth** on **01977 797722**

Irwin Mitchell Statements Of SEN Seminar

This FREE seminar will look at the complex area of Statements of Special Educational Needs and will provide a short history of special educational legislation. The seminar will include a presentation from Mr Albert Reid Chartered Educational Psychologist & Angela Sandhal of the Public Law Team at Irwin Mitchell.

The event is taking place at **5:30pm** on **Thursday 14th July 2011** at **Irwin Mitchell, 2 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4BZ**. To book your place E-mail: yorkshire.events@irwinmitchell.com or call **Gillian Hemming** or **Andrew Lawrence** on **0870 1500100**.

Able 2 Focus on Boccia

You may not find Boccia, (pronounced 'Bot-cha'), in your dictionary but it is a game that is played by thousands of people across the country and the number of people who play the game in Wakefield is growing rapidly.

The game originated thousands of years ago in Greece where players threw large stones at a stone target. It's name derives from the Latin word for ball – bottia. It was originally used as a form of therapy for people with severe cerebral palsy. It became a Paralympic sport in 1984 and there's been a rapid rise in the popularity of the game with over 50 countries competing for places at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Boccia is a non-contact target sport which relies on the skill and subtlety of each player rather than their size, speed or strength. A boccia set comprises of 6 red balls, 6 blue balls and a white jack ball. The object of the game is to be closest to the white jack ball when all the balls have been sent onto the court. The balls can be thrown or rolled. Players who find it difficult to grip a ball can propel the ball onto court using a chute. These players are allowed to have a helper with them. Certain players with more severe disabilities may use a head pointer to release a ball on their chute. The game can be played by individuals, as pairs or in teams of three.

So what's going on in Wakefield? First of all there are several schools across the District that include boccia in their PE or extra-curricular sessions. Featherstone Technology College enter teams in the Lord's Taverners U-19 League. This year, 2011, saw one of the teams win the Yorkshire Regional U-19's competition and progress to the National Finals, where they finished in a very creditable 5th place. Teams from Featherstone and The King's School, Pontefract, will represent Wakefield in the West Yorkshire Youth Games at the end of June. If you are aware of any school that would like to sample or introduce the game, coaches from Able2 are able to offer help in school time or in after-school sessions.



The successful 'Able2 Spartans

There are also clubs that offer boccia as part of their programme of activities. The Mulberry Club, Wakefield Autism Leisure Club and the Wakefield Able2 Club all offer boccia. The Able2 Club have a specific Boccia Club on Wednesday evenings at Featherstone Sports Centre, from 6pm to 7pm. The Wednesday Club operates two in-club Leagues for players that enjoy competition. In addition, the club offers entry to the Boccia England CP Regional and National events. The competition here is for players with more severe physical disabilities.

For all the other players there are still lots of opportunities for competition. The Able2 enter teams in the Boccia England National League. This year 2 teams, 'The Wednesdays' and 'The Spartans', competed in the 2 Yorkshire Leagues. 'The Spartans' won their League and will compete against 16 teams from across the country in the National Finals. (These will be held in Nottingham in July.) In addition, the Able2 Special Olympics Club enter teams in their Regional Boccia Championships. In April this year, at the competition at Bradford, the Able2 'A' team took Silver in Division 4, the 'C' team took Bronze in Division 2 and team 'B' earned a place in Division 1, where they finished 4th.

The Able2 are involved in 2 other National Competitions. Boccia is one of the sports that feature in the National Rotary Games in Coventry and in the November 2010 event the pairs team won their competition and one of the 'Elite' players reached the semi-finals. The Able2 also provide the majority of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional team that compete in the DSE (Disability Sports Events) Nationals. The 2010 competition, held in Sheffield resulted in the Able2 Club having two individual DSE National Group Champions and the Yorkshire and Humberside team were crowned National Champions – an excellent result.

So, to round up what is going on involving Boccia in Wakefield, you could say 'quite a lot' but there are still lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved in the game. For more information about the game or what's going on in the area, please contact Steve Greatorex from the Wakefield Able2 Club on **01977 709576** or E-mail. greatorex_s@sky.com

The Legacy of DCATCH

The DCATCH project was a government initiative, for parents with disabled children, that came about through the Childcare Act 2006. This act highlights the need for childcare which meets the requirements of parents, as well as those of the child. The Wakefield DCATCH project was created to meet these needs, with the service being provided by KIDS and funded by Wakefield Council.

The scheme ended in March 2011 and aimed to build parental confidence in using mainstream childcare settings. During the project 23 families accessed free taster sessions in childcare settings, along with the support of an additional adult, where the child needed to have a positive introduction. The project also offered training and support to childcare settings, in order to develop good inclusive practice.

To illustrate to families that childcare settings are welcoming and inclusive, KIDS developed a Kite Mark using 'The All of Us Quality Inclusion Framework'. Childcare settings completed a self assessment to demonstrate good inclusive practices, after which they would receive either a bronze, silver or gold Kite Mark. A total of 31 childcare providers gained the 'Implementing the Framework for Quality Inclusion Bronze KITE Mark', of which 18 were childminders.



Ain't no party like a DCATCH Oscars Party

Families who participated in the project and the settings that achieved a Quality Inclusion Kite Mark celebrated the successful conclusion of the scheme at the KIDS Mini Oscars event. This party was held at Wakefield Wildcats Stadium at the end of March. Clearly families felt the project was of benefit to them, with one parent saying, "It helped me decide if Ann could cope in mainstream. Great for Ann to mix with other mainstream kids" Another parent commented, "We are going to continue to use this childminder and I am going to see if there are any other courses at college I could possibly do. Thank you for this opportunity"

As the DCATCH project ends, KIDS Inclusion Service, which is funded by Wakefield Council, will continue to provide information, advice and support to all families of disabled children or children with additional needs who wish to access childcare. The Inclusion Service will also continue to develop 'The All of Us Framework Quality Inclusion Kite Mark'.

The final part of the Dcatch legacy is coming soon, as a collaborative effort between KIDS, Wakefield Council Educational Psychology Service, Wakefield Family Information Service, and Wakefield Council Childcare and Marketing Development Team. Together, these teams have created a Childcare Information pack, which contains all the information you will need to know about disabled children's access to childcare in the Wakefield District.

For more information on 'The All of Us Framework Quality Inclusion Kite Mark' and disabled children's access to childcare in the Wakefield District please contact **KIDS Inclusion Service** on **01924 299488**, E-mail **enquiries.wakefield@kids.org.uk** or visit **www.kids.org.uk**

For more information about childcare and for details of settings in the district that have been awarded the Kite Mark contact **Wakefield Families Information Service** on **0800 5878042** or visit **www.wakefieldfis.org.uk**

Luv2meetU

Following a successful relaunch event on the 31st of March, Stars in the Sky Yorkshire is now Luv2meetU. This Community Interest Company is a friendship and dating agency for people aged 18 and over with a learning disability. It is run by and for people with learning disabilities and provides opportunities to make new friends, share interests and develop relationships. There is a small membership fee to join up.

For more information call the regional office on **01924 229120**, E-mail **luv2meetu@hft.org.uk** or visit **www.luv2meetu.com**

Kidz Aware Events

Kidz Aware have a number of events coming up shortly and thanks to funding from Wakefield Council, most of them are completely free. Here are the details

Music and fun Wednesday 27th July, 1pm-3pm including lunch. This session will be about having fun using music, dance and acting. The session will be facilitated by Music for Minors and includes "sing hello to everyone", playing percussion instruments including shakers, claves and castanets to music, a listening game and playing together as a band. This event is taking place at **West Wakefield Methodist Church, Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QR**

Pottery session Wednesday 10th August, 1pm-3pm. This session is about doing pottery together and having a great time painting cups. This event will be held at Wakefield Methodist Church, **Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QR**

There will also be a couple of **Youth club** sessions. The first will be on **Monday 12th September** and will be followed by another on **Monday 10th October**. These sessions provide young people with the opportunity to meet one another, make friends and have a great time whilst doing a range of activities. Both sessions will be held at **Jubilee Hall Community Centre, 5 Road Ends, Townley Road, Wakefield WF2 8NS**. Each session runs from **5pm** until **6:30pm** and there is a charge of **50p** per child.

Halloween event Wednesday 26th October, 1pm-3pm including lunch. This session will feature the return of Giggles and Chuckles, who will be providing a Halloween puppet show and a range of fun activities. This event will be held at **West Wakefield Methodist Church, Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QR**

For more information about any of the events listed, please contact Kidz Aware on **01924 385977** or E-mail **kidzaware@hotmail.com**

Wheels for All

Come and join the cycling fun for everyone on our fleet of adapted bikes. The bikes are especially good for people with disabilities and differing needs. The sessions are **FREE** and trained leaders will be present. Helmets will also be provided but children are to be accompanied by an adult.



Cycle fun for all

The sessions are held at **Havercroft & Ryhill Sports & Youth Centre, WF4 2BD** and an open session is held on the second Saturday of every month. Each session runs from **10am** until **12pm**. If the weather is fine sessions are held outside, otherwise indoors.

Contact **Gail Tombs** (Club Co-ordinator) on **07762 018136** for further information.



The WheeLeasy Bike

1Voice West Yorkshire



1Voice, a national charity, supporting young people & families who use Alternative & Augmentative Communication are hosting Family Fun Day on **Sat July 16** from **10am-2pm** at **Kingsland School, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4BA**. A contribution of **£10** per family is requested. Please bring a packed lunch.

Activities on the day will include a Photographer's studio, Face painting, a Music shop, Biscuit decorating and Kite Flying. To book your place E-mail **1voicewestyorkshire@1voice.info**

Focus on Speech & Language Therapists

Speech and language therapy is concerned with the management of disorders of speech, language, communication and swallowing in children and adults. Speech and language therapists, (SLTs), are allied health professionals. They work closely with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors.

In the Wakefield District the SLTs are based at the service HQ at the Featherstone Health Centre, but they also run drop-in sessions every month at a variety of Health and Children's Centres. The service operates an open referral system, so families and professionals alike can make a referral.

Speech and language therapists deal with a number of conditions and across a variety of ages, including helping babies with feeding and swallowing difficulties. They also assist children with; mild, moderate or severe learning difficulties, physical disabilities, language delay, specific language impairment, specific difficulties in producing sounds, hearing impairment, cleft palate, stammering, autism/ social interaction difficulties, dyslexia, voice disorders and selective mutism.

For more information about the service, to make a referral or to find out about the drop-in sessions contact the team on **01977 465417**.

Snailympics by Faceless

As mentioned in our cover story, Aiming High Grants are available for VCS Groups to put on activities for families of children with additional needs or disabilities. If you're looking for ideas of what to do then check out what Faceless did with their grant. Founded in 1990, Faceless is a professional arts organisation working to create access to the arts for all. The company's highly visual & often non-verbal style aims to reach people of all ages regardless of culture, language or disability.



Has this Snail been Tango'd?

Over the February Half Term Holiday the Faceless Theatre Company ran a series of family fun days in conjunction with Wakefield Home Based Break Service and Oakfield Park School. They worked with young people aged eight and upwards and the day of activities included creative workshops with participants making snail hats and junk instruments. In the afternoon, they took part in the Snailympics interactive performance, exploring achievement alongside their carers and families.

Invites went out to children and young people attending Oakfield Park and Highfield Schools. Over 43 young people took part in the activities during the week. All the participants were encouraged to work together on a number of

creative activities including singing, role play, arts and crafts. Several attendees came with their families or carers, to enjoy the sessions together.

Faceless provided carers and support staff with templates and materials so they could deliver further activities. One carer told Faceless that, "In seven years of working in care he had never seen an approach like it and that the project really engaged the participants". He felt that they had achieved more than he would have expected.

Some participants attended on multiple days, for some this was because of a need for routine. Others simply enjoyed themselves so much that they came back for more. Here's what some of the participants said. "Excellent, just what the children need." Thankyou so very much, we had a brilliant time enjoyed making the snail hats and the blowers. You are all really lovely and kind. Thankyou"

Faceless are looking to partner with 'Early Years' provisions to provide another activity this year for younger children. For more information contact **Charlie Wells** on **01924 335985**, E-mail **Charlie@facelessco.com** or visit **www.facelessco.com**