

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



OUR SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S CELEBRATION EVENT

(during "Sons & Daughter's Week")

Was a resounding success!

HUGE THANKS to MANDY HEGGADON (carer from Exeter) for all her efforts in organising it (and everyone else!)

THANKS, TOO, to all who came along to celebrate the contribution of our own children to fostering for children in care in Devon – it really wouldn't have worked at all without you! 😊

...and not forgetting, **THANKS,** too, to the Fostering Service who supported the event with a generous contribution towards the cost.

All children nominated by their parents each received a personal thank you card and a voucher to spend on themselves – well deserved and we hope they enjoy it.

The event was such a success that we've decided to make this an annual event, at The Waie Inn in Zeal Monachorum, so pencil it in your diary for next year



Take a look at some of our photos of the day at the end of this newsletter – do you recognise anyone you know?

(if anyone would like email copies – perhaps for life story books, etc - please just let us know)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE OF OUR OWN (Cathy Parker)

...has negotiated with Crealy Family Park, a change to their annual membership card, that Devon's foster carers can all benefit from!

Thanks to Cathy's persistence, Crealy have agreed that they will give Devon's foster carers flexibility with any child annual passes they purchase. From now on, a child pass will cover any child a foster carer registered for Devon takes into the park. The new flexibility means that a child annual pass can continue to be used for the next child when a child moves on or returns home, before the year ends. Really useful, especially for those that do respite and have different children frequently.

WELL DONE, CATHY!

Thank you very much. 😊

FANCY A DAY OUT IN NORTH DEVON?

The Milky Way, Nr Clovelly, is a very popular, family run theme park and, ...what's more.... the owners have just very kindly offered Devon's foster carers

HUGELY discounted entry (at a rate of **just £5 per person**) on **Saturday 4th November**

Why not make a day of it and bring a picnic? Just don't forget to **bring your Foster Carers' ID card** to benefit from this special offer!

(It would be helpful if we could pass on some idea of numbers planning to attend - to provide for staffing numbers - so please let us know if you're planning to attend). Do, please take a moment on the day to thank the owner Trevor Stanbury for his generosity. 😊



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS!

All carers should, by now, have received your **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT** from the Fostering Service – just in time for the deadline for completing your final tax return on 31st October. 😊

Speak with your Supervising Social Worker, or the Finance Team, if you haven't received yours yet.

For those that are techno-savvy but not yet aware, you might like to know that many carers are accessing

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting

There's a wealth of information and advice from people just like you, who are caring for children struggling with trauma and attachment disorders. Many are foster carers, adopters and carers with Special Guardianship Orders.

Well worth a look! 😊

**The
Fostering
Network**

are running a competition. They would like children and young people to create a piece of art which represents their fostering family and then share a picture of their artwork with them via Twitter using @fosteringnet and #MyFosteringFamily.

The competition will be run across four age groups and there is a prize of £25 in John Lewis vouchers for the winner in each category. See some examples and read the full competition details with T&Cs on their website.

The competition will open on 1st October 2017 and will close at midnight on 31st October. Winners will be announced and contacted no later than 13th November and prizes of a £25 gift voucher from John Lewis will be available for each age category.

Why not check out their website for further details.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

RAISE

(Mental Health Promotion) team at Merseyside Youth Association

Based on the Resilience Framework, this "Bounce Back" card game has been developed using evidence-based research to enable carers to explore resilience with their children and young people in a fun and interactive way. Each colourful card in the deck represents a different component of resilience. Each pack provides instructions for the 'Chase the Anguish Ant' game, which is a fun way of introducing the concept of risk and resilience to children and young people. However, the cards can be used in a variety of ways! For more information, contact them on;

<https://www.liverpoolcamhs.com/parents-carers/bounce-back-a-game-exploring-resilience-with-children/>

"Bounce Back" stars Resilient Ralph and his friends, the ResiliANTS. Ralph has springs so that he can bounce back from his problems and keep going even when things are hard. His friends, the ResiliANTS, are based on the five columns of the Resilience Framework. The game also features Anguish Ant, representing the problems that we can all face. However, with help from Ralph and his friends, Anguish Ant can be controlled.

The Fostering Service is planning to organise some events for foster carers and would appreciate some help from a foster carer (or two) with the planning of them. Would **YOU** be interested in helping create something special for your fellow foster carers? If so, Luke Chapman would love to hear from you. Contact him direct on luke.chapman@devon.gov.uk

We've created an

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

for circulation around the County, detailing events and activities, as they are organised. We'll upload an updated version on future newsletters to help keep you in the loop.

If you'd like us to add any events in your locality for distribution to carers across the County, please just let us have details and we'll broadcast it for you to help support your event / activity.

First version attached to this newsletter.

Please offer some feedback

– i.e. how can we improve it?

DON'T FORGET

David and Marion Leyland's offer of a trip to Kenya to visit a Secondary School for children in poverty in August 2018, with Operation Imprezza. (Check it out at www.operation-imprezza.org) If you're interested in finding out more, contact David or Marion, direct at davidleyland@hotmail.com



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

SHOEBOX APPEAL

If you'd like to help put a smile on a child's face and be part of bringing a little Christmas spirit to a far-off land, why not 'fill-a-shoebox'?



from this....?



To this.....

There are lots to choose from (like these examples, listed below)

<https://www.blythswood.org/shoe-box-appeal-2017-order-form>

www.linktohope.co.uk/shoebox_appeal/fill_a_shoebox

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

www.rotaryshoebox.org/

You (and your youngsters) could make someone you've never met, very happy this Christmas! 😊

DON'T FORGET!

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR TAX RETURN IS 31ST OCTOBER SO DON'T DELAY!

Tax - General guidance on fostering and tax can be found on HMRC website, <https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/help-with-the-cost-of-fostering>, but carers are **STRONGLY advised** to check their own individual personal circumstances carefully.

National Insurance Contributions - To ensure you receive the benefit of Class 2 National Insurance credits when you retire, you will need to have at hand a copy of a letter from Children's Services confirming how long you've been caring for Devon. – ask your supervising social worker for one now! **Don't miss out**

TABLE TOP SALE

Don't forget, we have a Table Top Sale at our meetings now, to enable members to sell items they no longer want or need, for a small donation in our collection box. Any money raised in this way will go towards future events we're planning to support you and yours. 😊

If you have any items you'd like to donate or simply dispose of, (e.g., books, toys, clothing, equipment, clothing, etc) simply bring them along to the meetings with you, and place them on the sale table as you come in for others to view. Anything that doesn't sell can easily be taken back home for advertising, (perhaps, on the "Stuff Swap" link on our Facebook page 😊).

COME ON – WHY NOT CLEAR SOME SPACE AND GRAB A BARGAIN!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDER;

You can now forward any concerns and queries direct to
[childsc.fosteringoperations.manager-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.fosteringoperations.manager@mailbox.devon.gov.uk)

(we're assured the mailbox is checked every day)

Usual **MINUTES (and Summary)**, of our last meeting on 28th September 2017 **attached** together with copy **AGM Minutes and papers** (including our Constitution and Charter)



If you would like to raise anything to be included in the **Agenda** for our next meeting, please do let us know.

REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION!
Your views matter!!

DON'T FORGET NEXT MEETING

will be on 14th November 2017

at 10.30 a.m. (-12.30p.m.)

Oaklands Court, Tiverton

Hope to see you there 😊

How to contact us; -

- **via** any one of our committee (so far!) Trish Bagshaw or Leigh Strange (**North**), Lewis Crowden (**Exeter**), Mandy Heggadon (**Exeter**), Nicky Knight (**Mid & East**), Mike Gillard (**North**), David Leyland (**South**), Andrew Randall (**Mid & East**), Denise Lacey (**North**), Glyn Oliver (**Mid & East**), Sam & Stuart Penny (**Mid & East**), Caroline Maund (**North**) and Kim St. Barbe (**North**). Feel free to contact any of us (*via our Facebook page*) for any information about the Association and what we're doing on **YOUR** behalf or, if you'd simply like to get more involved.

If you're not already a member, simply search for any of our Committee (names above), via Facebook

- **via** Facebook. Simply 'friend request' Tris, Leigh, Nicky or Mandy (*full names and areas above*) on Facebook and, once we've checked you are who you say you are, we'll add you to the closed group. After that, you need simply look for Devon Foster Carer's Association and you should be able to find us, and join in the chat....

If anyone would like to join us or help in any way, please do just let us know – the more the merrier.

REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

OUR SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S

CELEBRATION EVENT OCTOBER 2017



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

