

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



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

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



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TREVOR STANBURY, owner of

The Milky Way, Near Clovelly, North Devon

has offered

ALL of DEVON'S FOSTER CARERS, and their families,

hugely discounted entry to the theme park, for

just £5 per person

on Saturday 4th November

Many carers in the North already know what **THE MILKY WAY** has to offer, but for those of you who haven't visited the park before, why not check them out on their website at <https://www.themilkyway.co.uk/>

To take advantage of this exceptional offer, you simply need to produce sight of your foster carers' ID card upon entry.

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.

Thank you very much, Cathy 😊

AND to

Josh Haywood, (Manager at Crealy)

WHY NOT PAY A VISIT!



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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. 😊

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.

Updated version attached to this newsletter.

Please do offer some feedback

– i.e. how can we improve it?

David and Marion Leyland's offer of a **trip to Kenya** is still open for those who'd like to visit a Secondary School for children in poverty **in August 2018**, with Operation Imprezza. (Check it out at www.operationimprezza.org)

If you're interested in finding out more, **contact David or Marion** direct at davidleyland@hotmail.com



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REMINDERS!

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-shoebbox'



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/shoebbox_appeal/fill_a_shoebbox

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

www.rotaryshoebbox.org/

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

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting

...Facebook page holds 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. Find it by searching Facebook.

Well worth a look! 😊

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!



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REMINDER;

You can now forward any concerns and queries direct to

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

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.

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