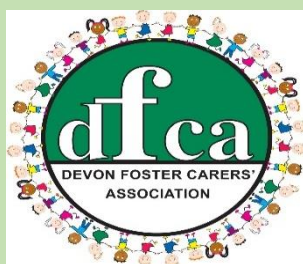


DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



FUN IN THE SNOW!!!

You'll remember we issued a challenge to build a snowman?
Well...we thought you might like to see some of the entries...



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



...and THE WINNER... (drum roll!) ... was....



MANDY HEGGADON (for managing to extract 9 (COUNT THEM, 9!?!)) teenagers away from their X

Boxes and out into the snow!) **and FAMILY – WELL DONE!** 😊



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION
SPECTACULAR EFFORT, AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART.

(same challenge next time it snows? 😊)

That wasn't all the children did. There was more fun to be had...



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

...and here's a snapshot of some of our carers' efforts from the last time the snow came to Devon (*a mere 8 years ago!!!*)

WHAT AN ARTISTIC LOT YOU ARE!



...and FINALLY...joke of the season came from carer,

Sarah Denton,

“My Snowman has no nose”

“How does he smell?”

“AWFUL!”



COUNTYWIDE NEWS

Foster Care Fortnight

will soon be upon us

14th – 27th May this year.

If you have any ideas that could help us celebrate it,

please let us hear them, via the usual mechanisms, (i.e. our FB page, or email to any of the Committee -

*(i.e. Trish Bagshaw, Leigh Strange, Lewis Crowden, Mike Gillard, Glyn Oliver
Denise Lacey, David Leyland, or Andrew Randall)*

More details about this (below) under National Updates

DON'T FORGET

CHILDREN IN CARE AWARDS

Are happening on **23rd March** at St. James' School. Exeter from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

TO ALL NEW CARERS,

If you'd like to be part of our Facebook page (where you can meet other carers in your area and access a wide range of information, guidance and knowledge from others carers), just send any one of us a 'friend request' and (after checking you are who you say you are) we'll add you to our closed group.

SIMPLE

REMINDERS

BRUSHING TEETH



If your youngster is resistant to brushing their teeth, why not check out

<https://www.facebook.com/thedadlab/videos/425012774507180/>

This is a perfect activity to help a toddler to get used to the idea of toothbrushing. It is super fun and it shows the need of brushing teeth daily.

DON'T FORGET...

...your MAX Card offers all foster carers discounts to a variety of entertainment venues. If you haven't received yours yet, speak to your SSW asap, so you and your children

DON'T MISS OUT!

For more information about what's on offer check out...

<http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk/>

The Operations Manager for Fostering, Luke Chapman, is keen to try to help resolve any queries, problems, concerns or issues you might have quickly and you can send them to him via

childsc.fosteringoperationsmanagermailbox@devon.gov.uk

for a quick response!

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

...OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

...is circulated around the County, detailing events and activities for and by carers, as they're organised. Why not check out the attached, updated version 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.

Please do offer some feedback (*i.e. how can we improve it?*)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL UPDATES

The Campaigns Team at **THE FOSTERING NETWORK** are looking for carers who would be willing to be part of a working group, along with the Department for Education, to offer their views on how the newly agreed 15 hours free childcare Government policy (for 3 and 4-year olds fostered children in England) should happen in practice.

A meeting of a working group has been organised with the Department for Education on Tuesday 20 March from 11am to 1pm at Fostering Network's offices in 87 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HA

If you would like to attend and take part in this **important opportunity** to shape how this new Government policy will be implemented, please email them direct with your name, (at info@fostering.net), contact number (mentioning which fostering service you work with – i.e. Devon) and a line or two about the type of foster care you provide.

If you are a mainstream or family and friend/kinship foster carer who has experience of looking after three- and four-year-olds (or is likely to in the near future) your views could be vital in ensuring this new policy will meet your needs – don't miss the opportunity to be part of it.

Travel expenses will be paid, or, if you'd like to take part, but can't get there on the day, The Fostering Network could arrange for you to dial in.

For more information, you can contact The Campaigns Team direct on 020 7620 6400

Please pass this message on to any other foster carers who you think may be interested in attending. This is a great opportunity for carers to be at the forefront of Government Policy that will, ultimately, affect them and the children they care for.

PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

During **Foster Care Fortnight** this year (14th - 27th May)

The Fostering Network will be running the 'I'm...and I'm #ProudToFoster' theme e.g.

- I'm a baker and I'm #ProudToFoster.
- I'm over 60 and I'm #ProudToFoster.
- I'm a parent of three and I'm #ProudToFoster.

They are encouraging everyone to get involved with the campaign on social media using **#FCF18**.

Visit their website to find out more about their social media campaign, promotional film and celebrity support.

https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/get-involved/foster-care-fortnight?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Lik722&utm_campaign=Members%27%27+February+e-newsletter

The National Association of Therapeutic Parenting (NAOTP)

...provides support, education and resources for ALL therapeutic parents (including us!) and supporting professionals relating to therapeutic parenting, effective interventions, compassion fatigue and the effects of early life trauma.

You can find more information about them by searching Facebook for their page, NAOTP, and taking a look at their Facebook forum - it carries a wealth of information and advice from people just like us, who are caring for children struggling with trauma and attachment disorders - or by checking out their website at

www.naotp.org.uk/

Highly recommended by other carers who are already members. Well worth a look! 😊

SOUTH WEST FOSTERING FORUM

REMINDER 22nd March

Please note; All meetings are held in Taunton (as they involve carers from all over the South West Region). If you're interested in coming along, let one of us know.

We can arrange to accompany you, so you wouldn't feel at a disadvantage.



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NORTH – EVENTS AND NEWS

EYES DOWN!

...for our



(see what we did there? 😊)

COME AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FAMILY FUN PRIZE BINGO.

Saturday 10th March from 5.30 at Fremington Parish Hall

THERE'LL BE RAFFLE PRIZES, INCLUDING CHOCOLATE HAMPER, CHICKEN DINNER, EASTER EGGS, KINDER EGGS AND LOTS MORE!

TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE.

TICKETS COST JUST £2 PER FAMILY & INCLUDES FREE DRINKS FOR ALL CHILDREN.

PLEASE CONTACT KIM ST. BARBE ON 07870842241 FOR TICKETS.

REGULAR EVENTS

Tarka Tennis in Bideford

Is still offering lots to keep your child entertained. From mini tennis to regular tennis clubs to Wimbledon Fever, it's a fantastic place to get them on their feet.

They are currently offering their Special Olympics session on Saturdays from 2 – 4. More details can be found at...

<http://www.leisurecentre.com/tarkatennis/Tennis/page>

SATURDAY MORNING CLUB

The Autistic Society run a club for young people with Special Needs at Broomhayes, Kingsley House in Bideford. For more details check out...

<http://www.autism.org.uk/services/england/devon/daytime-hub.aspx>



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



Helen Woolway, social worker. runs a regular support group for

Foster Carers, caring for Children with Disabilities

The group meets on Mondays from 10 - 12 at Welland house, Chaddiford Lane, in Barnstaple. Dates vary and we'll update our Calendar of Events with year's dates very soon, so watch this space. If you're interested in going along, please contact Helen on 07967176713

BSL/ Makaton practice group

Last Tuesday of every month. No fee
Beginners welcome
Waterfront Inn, Westward Ho!

Tel; Sandy Buckley for more information
on 01237 425454

REMINDER

North -Support Group

At Frithelstock Village Hall, Frithelstockstone

On 13th March from 10 am – 12 noon

SOUTH - EVENTS AND NEWS



www.samsfunhouse.co.uk

offers fun and entertainment for 0 - 12-year olds and, what's more, they also offer

HALF PRICE DISCOUNTS FOR FOSTER CARERS!

OPENING TIMES are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 6pm and Saturday & Sunday 10am to 6pm

PRICES

(Mon to Fri) Under 12 months – ABSOLUTELY FREE - Under 5's £3.75 - Over 5's £4.25

(Weekend and School Holidays) Over 12 months £4.75



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDER

SOUTH – Support Groups

Tavistock – 17th April **AND** Kingsteignton / Newton Abbot – 24th April

MID & EAST – EVENTS AND NEWS

DIGGERLAND (near Cullompton) is a fabulous attraction for the whole family to enjoy.

The secret of Diggerland's success is that it has never moved away from its design concept – all rides and drives are construction based but also offer the thrills and excitement demanded by visitors. You can drive a dumper truck or a digger, but you can also enjoy a ride on the Dig-a-Round carousel, enjoy the view from the Skyshuttle or take a whirl in Spindizzy – not for the faint hearted but a design sensation.



Why not check it out; <https://www.diggerland.com/>

REGULAR EVENTS

MID DEVON ALLIANCE FOR SEN Saturday morning activities from 10 – 4 at PETROC College in Tiverton. For more details, check out <https://www.masctiverton.org/>

REMINDER

MID & EAST- Support Group

Colaton Raleigh Village Hall

21st March from 11–1 pm

EXETER – EVENTS AND NEWS

HALF TERM SOCIAL EVENT

TRAGO MILLS Meet & view the Hornby Model Railway at 11 am then a ride on the model steam railway at 11.15.

Optional lunch at Staple Hill Servery at 12 noon and then a visit to the ice rink at 1pm.

Contact Mandy Heggadon for more details



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

CREAM TEA – jam first, or cream first?



However you like yours, perhaps you should test it out at Mandy Heggadon's **CREAM TEA EVENT** at **12.30 on 1st March** (*private message Mandy on our Facebook page for directions, or contact any one of the Committee and we'll get Mandy to call you*)

The Exeter Gang Show is a fun night out for families and starts on Wednesday 11th April - Saturday 15th April.

Starring Exeter Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Guides etc.

Tickets are on sale at the Barnfield Theatre.

They do sell out fast, but offer discounts for a booking of 10 or more

<http://www.barnfieldtheatre.org.uk/exeter-gang-show/>

REGULAR EVENTS

EXETER LIBRARY

organise lots of fun activities, including their
Minecraft Red Ticket Day, Time Travelling and Discovering
Nature,

PLUS lots more! 😊

Why not check out their website for more details,

REMINDER

**EXETER – Support
Group,**

**5TH March from 10 a.m.
– 12 noon**

St. Marks' Church,
Pinhoe Road, Exeter



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

NEXT MEETING

2nd MARCH 2018

From 10.30 a.m. – 1.30p.m.

AT

OAKLAND 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**), 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**) and Caroline Maund (**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' admin' members, Trish, 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

Your views matter!



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

...and... **DON'T FORGET!...**

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!!

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL MEETINGS

- Table Top Sale at every meeting enables you to sell or exchange items you no longer want or need, and, perhaps, pick up just the thing you've been looking for 😊
- Our Library resource (also available at every meeting) allows all members to borrow and share any of the books and publications listed on our library lending list (attached to this newsletter). Happy reading 😊
- Freebies available at every meeting – from biscuits and coffee to things like books, information leaflets and donated toys. 😊
 - Teas / Coffees and biscuits (so you won't starve 😊)

Childminding can also be made available – if we know in advance that carers require this resource to be able to attend meetings. The more notice given, the better the chance of us securing a room and a childminder, so please provide us with as much notice as possible. 😊

