

DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



THE KIDS WERE EGG'STATIC ABOUT OUR EASTER EGG HUNT!

(See wot we did there? 😊)

And here are some pics to prove it.....



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION



FABULOUS DAY – thanks to Denise Lacey, Kim St. Barbe and Steve Lacey for all their organising. Looking forward to the next one already! (No pressure 😊)

COUNTYWIDE NEWS

**DON'T MISS
ANOTHER FUN DAY OUT!!**

(courtesy of our very own Fostering Service – thank you very much) 😊

At WILDWOOD ESCOT,

Escot Park, Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1LU

(check out <http://www.wildwoodescot.org/> for more details)

On
14th April

Don't forget bring a picnic, and please confirm numbers to Karl Newton (via our Facebook page)



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

REMINDERS

Foster Care Fortnight

Is almost upon us again

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)*

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!

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.fosteringoperationsmanagermail@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?)



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NATIONAL UPDATES

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=Link722&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 NEXT MEETING 21st June 2018

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. 😊



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NORTH – EVENTS AND NEWS

DON'T FORGET!

SPRING WALK at Tamar Lakes, Kilkhampton EX23 9SB

on **10th April** from **10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

Meet in the main car park at 10.30 a.m. till 3.30 p.m.

Don't forget to bring a packed lunch, wellies and waterproof coat (and a little change for the car park 😊)

Contact **Lindsay Hartley Russell** on **0797 721746**, or

Kim St. Barbe on **07870 842241** for more details

REGULAR EVENTS



Come join in the fun!

MUSIC
SOCIALIZE
CRAFTS

NORTHAM (TOP) HALL

Disabled Disco

Every Wednesday 11.30 - 1.30

£5 entry (careers free)

HOT DOGS **DRINKS** **TEA & COFFEE**
CRISPS **SWEETS**

Refreshments from 20p - £1.00

REMINDER

North -Support Group

CARER LED SUPPORT GROUP (Run by carers with experience of managing complex behaviours) at **The Freedom Centre, Barnstaple** on **27th March** from **10.30 – 12.30**

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**

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**



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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>

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.aspx>

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

REMINDER

SOUTH – Support Groups

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



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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- Carer Led
Support Group Colaton
Raleigh Village Hall
18th April from 11 – 1 pm

EXETER – EVENTS AND NEWS

**GO – KARTING, RACEWORLD,
EXETER EX5 1EW**

For children over 12 yrs. (and over 5' 1" tall, min)
Friday 27th April from 6 pm

WHY NOT HAVE A GO?!

(see what we did there? 😊)

Contact Mandy Heggadon for more details on 07763455586



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

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,

14th May (SW led),

10am-12 noon

At St Mark's Church, Pinhoe
Road, Exeter

NEXT MEETING

27th April 2018

From 10.30 a.m. – 12.30p.m.

AT

OCKMINT CENTRE, OKEHAMPTON

Hope to see you there ☺



DEVON FOSTER CARERS' ASSOCIATION

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!



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

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 😊)

