

Wakefield and District Down's Syndrome Support Group AGM 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010

Secretary's Report

Our **tenth anniversary** year has been a fantastic one, and a busy one in the life of our group. We have welcomed lots of new families and the group is going from strength to strength.

Saturday club is as popular as ever, with a mix of lots of regulars and new faces. Our **sports club** is currently postponed until we can find a new regular coach. Our thanks go to Martin Stringfellow for his previous support.

We have set up our **facebook group**, which currently has 40 members and has been used regularly for information sharing, invites to events and activities and the usual gossip and ranting!!

We had in excess of 60 people joining us on two **bowling trips** to Xscape and around 130 people on our annual **summer trip** to Flamingoland. Our **Christmas parties** are successful as ever – Santa had such a good time at the last kids' party that he has already confirmed his attendance, while the festive "spirit" was definitely flowing at the adults' party! Once again this event attracted over 100 people.

We have had some informal **family get-togethers** at parks and soft play, and we have started arranging **Mums' and Dads' nights** out – which start off formally and get more informal...

Our **library and information resource files** are in the process of being revamped to be available to families at Saturday clubs.

The **newsletter** has provided lots of resources and information for families over the course of the year, and has kept us in touch with a number of the group's supporters. The newsletter is sent to 92 email addresses and 67 postal addresses.

We want to make sure that the newsletter celebrates our kids' achievements so get in touch with me if you have anything to share.

During this year we began work on our **new web site** which will enable new families to find out more about the group, provide an information resource and celebrate our kids' achievements.

As a consequence we held a **summer party** at CISWO in June to mark our first ten years and to launch our new website. This celebration was attended by around 90 people including a number of local professionals associated with special needs.

Last but by no means least, the **committee** continues to meet regularly to review all aspects of our group, plan for the future and generally attempt to keep each other on the straight and narrow...

We are determined to continue to build on all the successes above, and meet the group's aims of providing support, information and fun to our ever-expanding number of families. We would welcome any input, volunteering and ideas that would help us get even bigger and better!

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