



Charlotte's Smiles NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 08

Providing Fun Activities and Parties for Children with Cancer

Welcome

To our fourth newsletter. It has been a very busy year and Charlotte's Smiles has gone from strength to strength. Many thanks to all our supporters and families who have given us great encouragement. It is not always clear who the people are that are behind Charlotte's Smiles as we all have different jobs. Thanks to UK Websaver and Angela Higgins in particular we should have our web site up and running soon and the faces of Charlotte's Smiles will be revealed to those who have not met us all yet. Please send pictures, comments and items for the December newsletter.

Pony Party fun

What a great time Alisha and Ruby had at their Pony party activity. Coincidentally it was Alisha's Birthday that weekend, she was so excited and kept asking for riding lessons - sorry Roz. Ruby, middle name smiler, rode Tinky Winkie and sent us a lovely drawing of her, thanks Ruby. Don't forget to go back for your 'own your own pony' session soon'



Craft day 6th Sept

The Scrapbooking and card making day was a huge success. Only three families booked and unfortunately Kathryn couldn't come due to being detained at the LRI. Hope you are better now Kathryn. There were a number of guests who all said what a great time they had had.

Alisha's Dad Andy made a fantastic page about his visit to HMS Belfast. Well done, it was great to have a dad along. Thanks to Angela for organising the day and providing the materials. The 3 children were all given a beautiful scrapbook from us to store their pages.

We hope to organise more of these sessions, as it is a great way to store your memories and a fantastic activity to keep the kids busy. Be sure to book your place. Pictures to follow

Girls Aloud

Hannah and Rachel had a great time at the Girls Aloud concert. They were quite a distance from the stage but judging from the pictures you sent us this didn't stop you having fun



Photographs

Many more of the Charlottes Smiles children have been on activities this year so come on please let us have a smiley picture. If you didn't take any photos we would still be interested to hear how you got on and what you enjoyed the most.

Please send pictures for our next newsletter

Gulliver's Kingdom

We have been very lucky to secure 30 tickets for Gulliver's Kingdom children's day on 11th and 12th October. We have invited our registered families to apply for them on a first come basis. Competition was rife for the tickets and the park had thousands of applications. They told us that Charlotte's Smiles was chosen because of the good work that we have done this year. Well done Charlotte's Smiles' team, supporters and families.

For information about Charlotte's Smiles please phone 01530 230633

Woburn – well what a day it was it really was. 40 children and Adults were picked up at Asda car park bright and early on Sunday 3rd August. The weather was kind to us thankfully and apart from illness preventing Alice from coming - we missed you - Everyone had a great time. The kids looked great in the T-shirts provided by Charlottes Smiles. The highlight of the day has got to be the cheeky monkey who climbed on to the windscreen. Chosen by Ben, Lucy and Zoe. Thanks to Emily and Haydon for the pics.



Thanks to Ben's family who told us that you enjoyed spending 'fun' time with friends from the ward. This is often said. It is good to see people whose lives are in some ways similar to yours. We are often told that families whose children have been recently diagnosed are not going to the support groups and events organised by charities like Charlotte's Smiles. It is hard when all you can think about is your child's illness, but you are not alone. There are lots of lovely people all going through or who have been through the same as you. If you can come along to these events and support each other you may find that you have fun and make new friends too.

Pantomime We have written to all our registered families inviting them to book tickets for the Pantomime Aladdin at Loughborough theatre this December. Last year was a fantastic production so we are looking forward to this year's show. We have provisionally booked tickets for 7th and 21st December. If you all book we will have to go on two separate days if we want the best seats - and we do. If you have not registered with Charlotte's Smiles yet there is still time for this year's event so hurry to contact us.



Fundraising

Sponsored Hair Cut

We are looking for 6 people to get sponsors to have 10 inches cut off their Hair. Each hair cut will be sent away to a children's charity to be made into free wigs for children with cancer. If you know anybody who can help please contact us. Thanks

Grease Night

A fantastic night was had by all at the Grease fundraising event in memory of Charlotte Coates-our namesake. Charlotte loved the film grease, when she was in hospital with Alara they could both be heard singing at opposite ends of the ward with their headphones on. Charlotte would be singing Grease and Alara would be singing the Sound of Music. **£2000** was raised. Many thanks to Lisa for organising the event, the school choir, dance school and the solo singers for giving your time freely. The whole success was attributed on the night to the very expert skills of our DJ compere Simon Carnell who runs an award winning Karaoke and Disco business. Simon gave his time freely and with his fantastic sense of humour and organisation he really made the night enjoyable. Thanks Simon. If you need Simon's Services please email for his contact details. You will be sure of a good night

If you are reading this and you have a child diagnosed or who has been treated for cancer in the passed 4 years and you have not registered your child with Charlotte's Smiles yet please contact us.

From the newsletter you can see that we are very active. We aim to offer each child a personal activity every year as well as at least 3 group activities. This year we have been able to offer 5 group activities thanks to outside supporters. We are adding new activities regularly and if you like ponies watch this space as there is some very exciting news coming.

We offer some of the group activities to families who are not registered but in many cases we do not have your addresses or phone numbers and so can not contact you to let you know what is available.

Most children registered with us have had a personal activity this year. We have quite a busy end of 2008 with the Woburn trip in August, Scrapbooking day September, Gulliver's Kingdom visit in October and the Pantomime in December that we thought that if you are one of the few children still waiting for your activity, you might prefer to have it in the new year when things quieten down again and there is not so much to do.

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