

# SOS! SEN

SOS! Special Educational Needs Registered Charity 1112475  
The Free Independent Helpline for Special Educational Needs  
35 Staines Road, Twickenham TW2 5BG Telephone 020 8538 3731

Issue 7

April 2010

## MINI NEWSLETTER

### Apology

Sorry we haven't put out a newsletter recently but work exploded from February to early April and there hasn't been time to even prepare materials for a lengthy document.

Despite a hardening line by SENDIST judges on costs and what is adequate education, we have had a very successful spring and particularly with cases that have not finally had to go to Tribunal. The additional information on our website has allowed us to provide more and more advice and this has meant that more and more parents are now getting into action early so that they have ample time to prepare their appeals.

### All4kids

The shop is going well thanks to our wonderful team and we are now looking in the Twickenham area for larger premises to take the shop, office and, hopefully, a workshop centre.

### Advice Centres

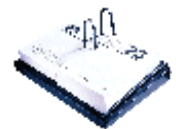
The new Initial Advice Centres in Croydon, Twickenham, and Aldershot are proving very popular.

We are delighted to find parents taking an active part in helping other parents via Helpline work. in the shop or at the new

Advice Centres. Finally, that is what it's all about - empowering parents to help **themselves and others**. WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL HELPERS SO THAT THE LOAD CAN BE SHARED - EVEN A FEW HOURS PER WEEK IS A HELP AND SO MUCH CAN BE DONE FROM HOME.

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## Diary Dates



### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010

#### The Three Peaks Challenge:

**This is going to hurt!!** A team of six are completing the three highest peaks in the UK in under 24 hours - Ben Nevis, Sca Fell Pike and Snowdon to raise money for SOS!SEN.

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010

#### Midsummer Night's Dream Ball:

Note the date now! To be held in the sylvan setting of Cole Court Twickenham. Four-course meal and dancing to the brilliant band 'Backtrack'.

For both of these - please see 'events' page

# SOS!SEN

It is really encouraging to feel that parents can begin to put back some of their own time and skills and to take part in at least some activities. A one way street is not what helps parents but the two way flow of help between the charity and them

## Website

Do please stay in touch with the website as there is always something new going on and frequently updated help and advice. The website has seen a continual growth in 'traffic' over the last 14 months; March 2010 showed 856 unique visitors<sup>1</sup> accessing 4,400 pages! (<sup>1</sup> these figures do not include visitors retuning to the site within the same month).

## Fundraising

All of us working for SOS!SEN are volunteers but increasing work means increasing costs. Fund raising is therefore very important if we are to help all those who need it.

We would like to thank Adrian Bennett, and all those who sponsored him in the London Marathon, also the Three Peaks team of Nat Frisken, Matt Horseman, Toby Wilson, Henry Leeson, Mat Newcomb, Martin Dean, and those who are sponsoring them for 30<sup>th</sup> May.

A way to have a really great time and yet to contribute to SOS!SEN's future would be to come to our next very important social and fundraising event - the glamorous **Midsummer Night's Dream Ball**.

Just see the lovely poster (see website page 'events') and do book swiftly to gain useful reductions. Why not bring your friends? A GREAT NIGHT OUT AND A GREAT WAY OF HELPING SOS!SEN.

Very much hope to see you there.

The SOS!SEN Team



## Spring cleaning?

DON'T forget the SOS!SEN shop at 35 Staines Road, Twickenham when Spring cleaning. Toys, clothes and children's small furniture such as pushchairs, high chairs etc are particularly needed.

Fancy dress costumes would also be welcomed - or even the materials to make them. If you are able to make them yourself, all the better. Fairy dresses are very popular but Batman, princess, pirates are also snapped up.

Volunteers are also needed for the shop, which is moving towards opening every day of the week from 11am to 4pm, except for Sundays. Help to man the shop, for even two hours per month, is urgently needed. It's easy, fun and extremely worthwhile.