



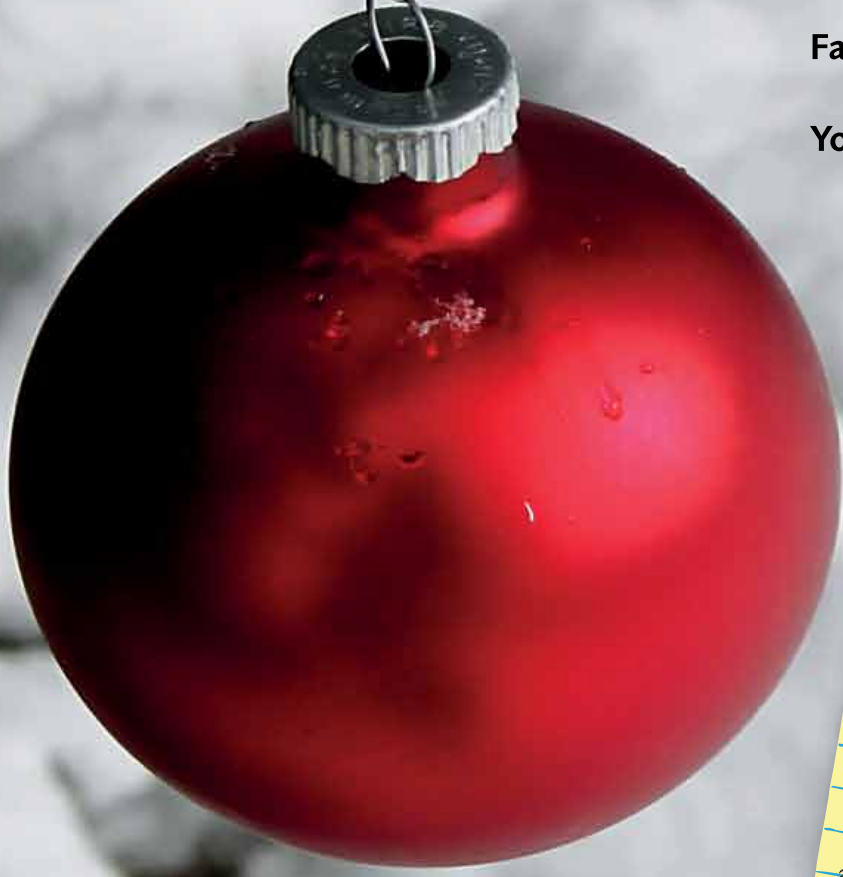
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NEWSLETTER XMAS 2015



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Editor's Note

Welcome to our Christmas edition. We apologise that we missed a summer edition this year but instead I have included the photos from the family day in this edition instead. We are quite excited to be doing something different for the Family Day next year so have a look at page 3 and there will be more details to come. Do not hesitate to contact me personally if you have questions about the area. I would like to wish all our members a safe and happy Christmas holiday and happy new year to you all. See you next year!

Nicki Turley



Don't forget to send your articles or any news that you would like to see in future issues to: secretary@wdssg.org.uk

Please let me know if you have anything that you would like to share with other members.



This years family day gets the thumbs up!

Another successful family day was held at Thames Valley Adventure Playground this year.

After the AGM we listened to Eleanor Wright from SOS!SEN talk about preparation for the EHCP process and Carla Marygold - from a parents perspective.

After lunch we engaged in a noisy session with the Joy of Sound!



From the Chair

Hello Everyone. It's been a fantastic year for me and hope you all have had a good one too? As you can see from this edition of the newsletter we have decided to have next years family day away from London. The feedback we got from you all is that you would like a more relaxed day allowing you all to meet up and chat to each other about different topic's, I know I don't get enough time to talk to everyone on the family days, so I'm hoping this way, it will allow us all to catch up. I have been busy trying to set up new fundraising ideas for the group as well as redesigning the new website. I hope you all like it and look forward to your feedback.



Merry Christmas
Mark Mayer
Chairman

A great
ANIMAL ENCOUNTER





We're coming to the Midlands next year!

We have decided to take next years family day away from London to hopefully cater for those further up the country.

This family day will be light and informal with plenty of time to chat and interact with other members and maybe attract members who have never attended a family day because they were just too far away. It will be a 'fete style' theme with indoor and outdoor activities and games for all ages. Look out for more details in our spring edition of the newsletter.



It will be on **Saturday 9th July** and will be held at **Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall** which is situated in the pretty village of Dunchurch in Warwickshire.

Dunchurch was first mentioned in the Domesday Book and many notable people have stayed here, such as Queen Victoria, Robert Stephenson and the Gunpowder Plotters who stayed at the Red Lion Inn (now called 'Guy Fawkes House').

The village hall design recognises the needs of both able bodied and those with disabilities. There is adequate parking for 70 cars including disabled spaces. It has a main hall, committee room, games room, kitchen and toilet facilities and some outside space.

It has excellent major road links from the M1, M6, M40, M42, A14 and A5 and just under 4 miles from Rugby railway station. There are also a huge range of hotels and things to do in the area to suit all budgets. For more local information please e-mail Nicki at secretary@wdssg.org.uk



Go to their website: www.dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk



Your membership



Your opinion matters

Please let us know what you would like to get out of your free membership with the group and if we can improve it. We are always keen to receive feedback so that we try and meet the needs of all our members.

- ? Do you want to have the chance to meet up with other members and chat at family days or do you attend because you want information?
- ? Would you like to get introductions to other families in your area?
- ? Do you just want to receive latest updates and information but do not want to be involved socially?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact Vanessa on national.contact@wdssg.org.uk

TRAVEL

Free bus pass

Depending on where in the UK you live, you might be entitled to free or discounted bus travel.

www.gov.uk

Disabled Persons Railcard

The Disabled Persons Railcard gives you a third off most rail fares. The discount is for 2 people – so you can save money for a friend or a carer too. You have to buy the railcard but it can pay for itself after just one journey.

There's lots of assistance available when travelling by train – including help getting on and off the train and help with luggage – all free of charge.

www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

HELPFUL HINTS

Always enquire about concessions for disabilities when you go to attractions around the country as some offer substantially reduced rates or even free entry for their carer/s.

New look website

We are currently working on a new look website to keep you all informed and hopefully make it more attractive and user friendly to those searching for us.



Working together

Mason Mayhew, who has WDS, now has his new wheelchair, thanks to some of our members. Our chairman, Mark Mayer, has been involved in helping to promote and raise the £4,500 needed for the new wheelchair and some of our members have also kindly donated.

Photos courtesy of James and Natasha Mayhew.



Affiliated to Contact a Family and Rare Diseases UK

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All information in this leaflet is correct at time of going to press.