

# CJP News



Saturday Club Activities for Children with Learning Disabilities Spring 2014

## Stop Press: CJP Secures Funding for Another Year

Grateful families said they were "overwhelmed" after residents and businesses donated more than £15,000 to save a children's charity from closure. Cambridge Joint Playschemes, which runs activities for youngsters with severe learning disabilities, faced closure within weeks if it could not raise the cash to match a donation from BBC Children in Need. But, after the Stapleford-based charity's plight was featured in the News last month, donors handed over the full £15,000 - plus extra which will help to keep the play schemes afloat for a further year. Newmarket resident Caroline Knight, whose severely autistic son Matthew has attended clubs and cinema outings for the last eight years, said: "It's wonderful. We're quite overwhelmed by people's generosity. "We were so dismayed at the thought that it might close and all the parents are absolutely thrilled because we all rely on it - it's the only thing available for children like ours to get them out of the house on a Saturday. "Mrs Knight and her husband David said the play scheme offered valuable social activity for Matthew, 16, under specialist supervision - and allowed the rest of the family to have a few hours of respite.

Residents and businesses donated £8,000, with the Lloyds TSB Foundation offering the same amount and £2,000 coming from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Residents have pledged another £3,000, and Lloyds TSB has agreed to give another £8,000 next year, but the charity will still have to raise £20,000 to stay afloat into 2016. David Jones, the charity's chairman, described the donations as a "great Easter present" for the families and children that use the play schemes. He said: "The closure of CJP would have been a disaster for Cambridge children with severe learning disabilities and their parents and we really thought we would be closing this time. "We have been overwhelmed by the response to our appeal and the generous offers of financial support we have received and now we can continue for at least another year. So thank you, Cambridge, for your generosity and support."

I would also like to offer my special thanks to Jason for his wonderful poster that undoubtedly had a real impact on the good people of Cambridge supporting CJP.

WELL DONE JASON!!





CJP Trustees Sara Britt and Alex Langford are organising a FUN fund raising activity on 29th July 2014 at Milton Country Park with 

Sponsored cycling around a course, tombola and cake sales to raise funds for CJP. More news to follow. Come along to support your child!.



As you will no doubt know Lisa (our wonderful Co-ordinator) has now left us for new challenges, I would like to thank Lisa for all the hard work and support she has given to the children and families and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her all the very best for the future and hope that she will return to see us as often as she can.

We have been fortunate to have recruited new staff and volunteers, some you may have already met. Welcome to Jone, Yasmin, Conor and William!

Follow Cambridge Joint Playschemes on Facebook 

Donations to CJP can be made by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com>

