**WELLSPRING WEST SUSSEX**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**

During 2014-15 Wellspring West Sussex has continued providing information to families of children with disabilities and special needs. With the funding we received last year from the Sussex Community Foundation, Cullum Family Trust, we are now able to easily keep our website updated with details of local events. These are also added to our Facebook page which is a good way of reaching families and those working with them as we can share posts with other local groups who also have Facebook pages. More detailed information and articles are put into our newsletters which are available on the website as well as printed copies. Our Creative Arts programme has continued to provide music and craft workshops to disabled children and young people as well as their siblings.

With the remaining funding from the Henry Smith Charity we were able to publish a second newsletter in 2014 which focused on Musical Technology. This edition had

a wealth of information about the amazing ways music can be produced using different technologies. Committee member Chris North contributed an article on his work with Lifemusic and the various devices he uses to create different sounds and tunes in workshop sessions. There was information on sources of funding for music technology and useful websites. Also included were interviews with two music students who have special needs; John Woolven assists Adam Gellibrand with music sessions funded by Wellspring. Any remaining funding will be used towards Issue 1 of 2015 which will be about Special Education.

With funding from the Sussex Community Foundation, Adam Gellibrand has provided workshops at Chestnut Tree House, PACSO, the Ashdown Centre, Orchard House Youth Group and sessions at the QM Studios in Horsham. Adam received positive feedback from all participants and is hoping to work with these groups again next year if funding allows.

The funding received last year from the Alchemy Foundation has enabled me to continue offering free places to children aged 4 to 11 years with special needs and their brothers and sisters at the Craft Club I run from my home art studio. Over the past year I was pleased to provide a place for a sister of Downs' Syndrome child at the Seaside Craft Club, one for a 10 year old girl with Cerebral palsy for Autumn 2014 and she attended again for Spring Craft Club 2015 along with an 11 year old friend with learning delay. I received lovely feedback from both these girls: *"I really liked craft club because we got to do lots of different things.  My favourites were making a scarecrow and sewing" Orla, age 10*

*"I love Lizzie's Craft Club. I've been before and it's the best. We are making things for Easter and they are lovely, I meet a friend who I don't see often and she is so nice, I love chatting to new people and to Lizzie too. I love it and think you would too."* Emily, age 11

In the next year we are planning to apply to Awards for All again for another grant which will fund further poetry and drama workshops run by Chris North, as well as more music workshops with Adam.

We have not received any large grants this year but we received £200 from the Wilf Page Charity Supper Club as a result of a recommendation by Lorna Schmidt, a former committee member. We also raised £37.85 via Easyfundraising.com where supporters can “earn” donations for Wellspring by shopping online. We also raised £32.37 through Localgiving.com, with donations from Joanna Richards (a friend of mine) and Tory Wilks (my cousin). Both of these websites are simple ways that people can support us online and will be continue to be promoted in future newsletters. We would like to thank everybody who has supported Wellspring West Sussex this year, particularly those mentioned above.

Lizzie Baily

Chair – Wellspring West Sussex

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