

Brighter futures

SUMMER 2010 INSIDE ISSUE FIVE



Race runners page 3



Party people page 16



It's our birthday

The National Blind Children's Society is celebrating 15 years of opening doors to a brighter future for children who are blind and partially sighted.

NBCS was founded in 1995 by Somerset entrepreneur Rod Carne, who is himself visually impaired.

Rod said: 'I was trying to study for two courses for the Open University and was struggling with the dreadful cassettes available at the time.'

'I thought that in this computer age there had to be a better way for

young people with sight problems to study and read, so I started looking into computer programmes which could help the visually impaired, especially children and young people.'

And from that tiny acorn of raising money to make specialist IT equipment and software available to young students, the charity concept started to grow until NBCS now also provides help through a comprehensive family support and information service, CustomEyes large-print books, expert educational advocacy and recreational events throughout the UK.

Thousands of children and young people and their families now have good reason to thank Rod for his foresight and determination.



Six-year-old Charlie blows out the candles on his birthday cake at a family day out with NBCS

Groundbreaking event for families

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KEY SERVICES

Family support from first diagnosis

Immediate and ongoing 'one-stop' emotional and practical support

Educational advocacy

Expert advice and representation to ensure the child receives the most suitable education in the correct environment

Access technology

Personalised ICT, sensory and other specialist equipment to help children access up-to-date technology and enable them to participate in the modern world and achieve their potential

Recreational activities

A nationwide programme of day and weekend family events, social, holiday and adventure activities

CustomEyes books

Large-print fact and popular fiction titles, annuals and revision guides tailor-made to the children's individual needs

Our mission is to enable children who are blind and partially sighted to achieve their educational and recreational goals

National Blind Children's Society: www.nbcs.org.uk

Head office: Bradbury House, Market Street,
Highbridge TA9 3BW
01278 764 764 enquiries@nbcs.org.uk

Birmingham office: Shawton House,
792 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham B68 0PJ

London office: 34 Grosvenor Gardens,
London, SW1W 0DH

Freephone Family Support and Information: 0800 781 1444

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Editorial: Joanna Roughton
T 01278 764 764 M 07974 238145 joanna.roughton@nbcs.org.uk

Chief executive: Carolyn Fullard
T 01278 764 764 carolyn.fullard@nbcs.org.uk

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Didn't they do well!

Forty-seven runners joined Team NBCS at the Virgin London Marathon 2010 and successfully completed the 26.2-mile course, raising thousands of pounds for our children.

Here are some of our winners.

Emma Pope and Lizzie Roshier



Martin Bruce and Dan Madams



Back from left, Paul Daniels, Paul McGuire, Tony Petruso, Aaron Davis, Adam Prentis, Craig Elliott; front, Duncan Babington, Brendon Fitzpatrick, Robert Marshall, Diane Kolat

For details of how you can join next year's call Karen on 01278 764 764 or email karen.burt@nbcs.org.uk

SNACK SUCCESS

The ChariSnack franchise organisation, which sells healthy snacks and smoothies direct to workplaces to raise money for charity, has donated an astonishing £370,000 to the National Blind Children's Society.

The snacks are sold from counter-top 'honesty boxes' which are usually left on reception desks in offices, factories and schools. They include nuts, dried fruits and rice crackers, as well as smoothies from The Little Drinks Company.

ChariSnack director Gordon Blood, pictured, said: 'We are absolutely delighted with the close partnership that has developed between us and the National Blind Children's Society. Our aim is to raise £1m for the charity.'

'I must also take this opportunity to congratulate NBCS on its 15 years of providing invaluable support and services to young people with visual impairment.'

'The ChariSnack team in Exeter, including our franchisees and customers, are all delighted and proud to provide funds to help ensure the dedicated staff at NBCS can carry on with their crucially important work.'



Let's get together

The best support comes from people like you. Family groups are a popular and effective way for parents and guardians of



children with visual impairment to exchange experiences and ideas, swap information or simply socialise with friends.

The NBCS Team Around the Family actively supports and encourages parents and guardians to form and manage groups of any size, meeting as often as they wish.

One such London group, Bridges, has been set up by parents who wanted to meet others whose children have special needs, not necessarily limited to a visual impairment.

The organisers are inviting interested parents from the London area to join them at a launch event on Tuesday 21 September where members of the NBCS team will talk about their work, the benefits and aims of family support groups.

There will be a sensory play-based music activity for the children and NBCS will provide lunch. The event runs from 11.30am to 2.30pm at The London Jesus Centre, 83 Margaret Street, London W1W 8TB (nearest tube Oxford Circus).

Any parents interested in joining or forming a family support group should contact the NBCS Team Around the Family free on 0800 781 1444.

Young talent

Molly Watt has Usher Syndrome type 2 and is registered Severely Sight Impaired - but that doesn't stop her producing works of art like the sculpture on the right. Her mum Jane said: 'Another of her amazingly inspirational pieces of work...'



Updated guide



A new version of the Department for Children, Schools and Families guide to Special Educational Needs is now available.

The booklet explains what options are available for school-age children and

gives practical guidance on how to identify and assess children with special educational needs and how their needs can best be met.

It can be downloaded or copies ordered at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications, or by post from PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottingham NG15 0DJ. Tel 0845 60 555 60.

We've been on the move

Our London office is now centrally located near Victoria Station, at:
34 Grosvenor Street
London SW1W 0DH

The ways forward

So far in 2010 NBCS has hosted three open days for families to try out the latest technical aids for children with visual impairment.

The aim of our Access Technology programme is to make personalised ICT, sensory and other specialist equipment available to help young people participate in the modern world and achieve their potential at home and school.

At the open days, which were held in London, Highbridge and Southampton, representatives from computer companies gave demonstrations to the families and the children were able to try out the equipment for themselves.

For details of our ICT days, which are always very popular, go to www.nbcs.org.uk. The next one is on Wednesday 28 July at Shawton House, 792 West Hagley Road, Birmingham B68 0PJ.



Special offer

Thanks to a specialist computer company more children with a visual impairment will be able to use PCs at home as well as school.



Through its School & Home licence Dolphin Computer Access will donate a free equivalent home use licence to any child with a visual impairment whose school buys a screen magnifier or reader.

The offer lasts until September this year and includes a SuperNova screen reader and magnifier, Lunar screen magnifier and Hal screen reader.

Dolphin's Dave Williams said: 'I know from personal experience that it is not only essential to have the best computer access at school, but accessing the family PC can make all the difference to a child's confidence and social interaction.'

'All children want to download music, instant message each other, browse social networking sites or maybe even do their homework. Why should a child who is visually impaired be any different?'

For more information about the Dolphin School & Home licence or to download a 30-day trial of SuperNova, Hal, Lunar or LunarPlus go to www.yourdolphin.com

Picture perfect

As part of our 15th birthday celebrations we are launching two competitions.

The first is for all our young artists, of any age. We are looking for drawings, paintings or colourings with animals as the subject, to a maximum size of A4. The winner will receive their choice of book from the CustomEyes catalogue and their artwork will appear on the front cover of our forthcoming large-print calendar for 2011. A further selection of 12 submitted pictures will be used for each month inside, credited to the artists.

The pictures entered cannot be returned and will become the property of NBCS. They may be used for future publicity purposes. The closing date for entries is 31 August 2010.

Send your entries, marked with your name, age and address on the back, to:

Drawing competition
National Blind Children's Society
Bradbury House, Market Street
Highbridge TA9 3BW



Get cooking

Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with our readers? We are planning a 15th birthday children's cookbook with recipes aimed at younger family members.

The recipes can be for any kind of dish – starters, mains or puddings, vegetarian, meat or fish, cakes and pastries – the choice is yours.

Please send your recipes to the address above, marked Cookbook competition, or email nigel.betts@nbc.org.uk before 31 August. Don't forget to include your name, age and address.

Diary date

Come and see us at
Birmingham Sight Village 13 - 15 July
New Bingley Hall, 1 Hockley Circus B18 5BE

Growing list



Some of the NBCS CustomEyes large-print books destined for RNIB's National Library Service

Our CustomEyes book production department continues to go from strength to strength.

This year we have installed new optical character recognition software which improves the workflow of text enlargement with more accurate transcription of hard copy data to digital files. This is helped by a recent increase in the number of much needed proofreaders who responded to our publicity campaign for volunteers.

Our growing digital capacity is also helping us to fill orders from our 'wish list' more quickly, although with ever-increasing demand from services and our members this is an ongoing challenge. Especially popular with parents are our National Curriculum revision guides.

RNIB is a major customer and we supply hundreds of large-print children's books for its National Library Service.

We now have nearly 1600 titles available to order on our catalogue, and so far this year alone we have added 88 new titles, almost one a day. To view the catalogue go to www.nbc.org.uk/customeyes.

Carnegie Medal Shortlist

Now available in large print



The Ask and the Answer
by Patrick Ness

Approximate age 13+ KS 3
Fleeing before a relentless army, Todd has carried a desperately wounded Viola right into the hands of their worst enemy,

Mayor Prentiss. Immediately separated from Viola and imprisoned, Todd is forced to learn the ways of the Mayor's new order.



Fever Crumb
by Philip Reeve

Approximate age 13+ KS 3
Set a generation before the events of Mortal Engines, when cities are just beginning to devour each

other. Is the mystery of Fever, adopted daughter of Dr Crumb, the key to the secret that lies at the heart of London?



Chains
by Laurie R. King

Approximate age 13+ KS 3
Isabel and her sister, Ruth, are slaves. Sold from one owner to the next, they arrive in New

York as the Americans are fighting for their independence, and the English are struggling to maintain control. Soon Isabel is struggling too.

The Vanishing of Katharina Linden



By Helen Grant
Approximate age 14+

On the day Katharina Linden disappears, Pia is the last person to see her alive. Terror is spreading through the town.

How could a girl vanish in a place where everybody knows everybody? Pia is determined to find out what happened.



Nation by Terry Pratchett

Approximate age 9+ KS 2
Finding himself alone on a desert island when everything and everyone he knows and loved has been washed away

in a huge storm, Mau is the last surviving member of his nation. He's also completely alone - or so he thinks until he finds the ghost girl.

Rowan the Strange



By Julie Hearn
Approximate age 12+

Rowan knows he is strange. But is he dangerous? He didn't mean to scare his sister. In his right mind, he wouldn't hurt a fly. But now he's been sent where they say they can fix his not right mind. While England is at war, Rowan's own battle is beginning.



The Graveyard Book
By Neil Gaiman

Approximate age 9+ KS 2
When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard?



Revolver By Marcus Sedgwick
Approximate age 12+

It's 1910. In a desolate cabin in the Arctic Circle, Sig Andersson is alone. Except for his father's corpse frozen to death that morning when he fell through the ice on the lake. But a sinister stranger appears.

Hit the Peru road



We are calling on all you intrepid trekkers to join us on our 15th birthday challenge to the magical Inca city of Machu Picchu this autumn.

The trek, which takes place over 10 days from Friday 15 October to Sunday 24, is co-ordinated by NBCS and sponsorship will be sought to help with the costs.

This exciting trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the remains of one of the world's great hidden civilisations while helping us to support children and young people who are blind or partially sighted.

The itinerary includes visits to the ancient capital of Cusco and the world-famous 'Lost City of the Incas', Machu Picchu. In between there is a chance to see how the modern Andeans live.

A detailed information pack is available from William Morris on 01278 764780 mobile 07854 332017 or email william.morris@nbcs.org.uk.

Tee party



Golfers are practising their swings for the National Blind Children's Society's annual golf day at Wedmore, Somerset.

Interest in the event is heightened by the coming of the Ryder Cup to Celtic Manor's international golf course in South Wales.

This year competing teams include Wessex Water, Avon and Somerset Police and David Edwards Associates. The event is on Wednesday 9 June.

The competition is an 18-hole stableford, with a shotgun start at 2pm. Maximum handicaps are 24 for men and 30 for ladies.

NBCS chief executive Carolyn Fullard said: 'We are delighted to be hosting this very enjoyable event again this year, and to see it fast becoming a very enjoyable highlight of the local golfing social calendar.'

'This is a particularly special year for us as it is our 15th birthday, and I hope the teams will enjoy joining in with our celebrations as well as a wonderful day of golf at one of the most popular and attractive courses in the West Country.'

New babies on the block

There are two new additions to our family of Baby Adoptables – a cuddly cow and a mischievous monkey.

You can take home one of these delightful fluffy animals and help NBCS at the same time. Simply send off for one of our packs and ask your workmates to guess where the animals are from. Each of the 55 guesses costs £1, and the winner takes the Baby Adoptables home and the money goes to us.

To request a game call Rose on 01278 764 764 or go to www.nbcs.org.uk.



Just the ticket

David Joiner, a pupil at Forfar Academy in Scotland, raised £100 for NBCS by selling tickets for two cuddly tigers in our Baby Adoptables games. Thanks to David and his friends!

Festive thanks...

...to Liverpool-based Radio City for its kind contribution to the cost of our Christmas party through the Cash for Kids charitable foundation. www.radiocity.co.uk/cashforkids.

One blind and one blonde in tandem

When Julian Jackson started to go blind five years ago it felt 'like a long journey into subterranean gloom'. But all that changed when he discovered tandeming which, he says, 'broke down all my self-imposed barriers, thrust me back into the real world of colliding soundscapes and smells – it's given me perspective'.

Thus inspired, and with the support of his tandem 'buddy', Nichola Bennett – his 'blonde lookout' – Julian is now training hard for one of the greatest challenges of his life, tandeming from John O' Groats to Lands End.

In July Julian and Nichola are setting off on their marathon trip with the aim of raising £10,000 for the National Blind Children's Society.

Julian said: 'I want to help as many blind and visually impaired children as possible to integrate and continue to thrive in the sighted world around them, and ultimately to experience their own fun, adventure and freedom of expression through their personal choices of physical activity – who knows, maybe they'll take up tandeming!'

To sponsor Julian, go to his website www.1blind1blonde.com.



Pedal power



Front row from left, Monika Bystra, Steve Byrne, Wayne Norris, Dave Lynus, Ian Webb, Vince Clark. Back row, Nathan

Kendall, John McGrechan, Liam Slatford.

Taking the picture was Will Mullheran.

Ian Webb, of Nuneaton, led a 23-mile bike ride round Rutland Water. He said: 'NBCS helped my nephew Joshua, and we wanted to give something back.'

Nine of Ian's friends from Nuneaton company Hermes completed the trip in spite of problems with punctures, brakes and gears.

Doctor hits the right note

Consultant paediatrician Kishor Tewari took up the microphone to raise money for NBCS at a gala evening of dance and classical Indian music in Cardiff, joined by his colleague Dr Sarita Pawar.



Rags to riches

Staff at Nikon UK's head office collected 90 bags of unwanted clothes and textiles to raise money for their Charity of the Year, the National Blind Children's Society.

The clothes will be sold on instead of adding to the 1.18 million tonnes of textiles currently sent to UK landfill sites.

The collection was organised by our recycling partners, care2collect.

www.care2collect.co.uk



Some of the Nikon UK staff with bags of unwanted clothes.

From left: Lucy Powell, Suzanne Marley, Jeff Edmonds of Nikon and Justin Thompson of care2collect.

Your questions answered

Martin Bradbury, Team Leader
(Children with Visual Impairment),
Birmingham Sensory Support Service
answers some of the questions
commonly asked by parents

What help is available for children with visual impairment through local authorities?

Local authority visual impairment (VI) services support children who are visually impaired and their families from point of diagnosis (often at pre-school age) to school leaving, with some authorities providing support in local mainstream colleges too.

Most VI services have an 'open referral' policy and welcome enquiries from parents, schools, hospitals and voluntary organisations.

Support can include home visits, support and direct teaching to children; support, advice and training to teachers and school staff; loan of specialist equipment, adaptation of resources to large print or Braille; mobility training; and liaison with local hospital eye services.

Some local authorities have resource bases where children with more severe visual impairments are supported alongside mainstream classes. There are also a small number of special schools for visually impaired children.

How do local authority Children's Services work with charities such as NBCS?

VI Services work closely with charities, signposting parents to services and activities offered, sometimes jointly supporting and organising events to make sure that the needs of visually impaired

children and their families are being met in the best way possible.

Charities often have access to funding for holidays or for equipment for home which can greatly help a child and their family. Some VI teams have charities working with them on reference groups (a bit like a governing body) to help with developing and improving the service on offer.

Is it best to approach a school or social services with special education issues?

The VI service is probably the best initial contact. VI services are often involved with families from pre-school, so that needs can be properly identified – getting everyone ready for the child going to school.

Where there is a 'school-based issue' services will help with identifying needs and special provision (including statements of special educational need where required). Social care and health (as it is now known) will tend to be involved in different issues – around respite care or housing, for example.

What criteria are used to decide whether a child is eligible for local authority support?

The VI services' criteria which explain which children they can support are usually based around levels of near and distance vision and take into account how each child uses the vision they have.

Children do not need to have a statement or to be registered as blind (severely sight impaired) or partially sighted (sight impaired) in order to receive support. Though the criteria vary around the country they are usually based upon seeing children whose level of vision is having an impact on their access to and progress within education.

Book your place now



There are still some places at our autumn family conference.

For the first time NBCS is working together with Guide Dogs for the Blind to host a conference bringing together

young people and their families with professionals working in the clinical, social and education fields of visual impairment.

It will be a unique opportunity to learn, exchange information and discover the real issues facing young people with visual impairment today.

Delegates from the world's leading researchers and practitioners in social care, ophthalmology, child psychology and education include chartered educational psychologist Bob Denman; Marie-Renee Hector of the National Institute for the Blind in Paris; Khalid Khan, Professor of Obstetrics-Gynaecology and Clinical Epidemiology; consultant Ophthalmologist Dr Jugnoo Rahi; Lindsey Rousseau, Children's Consultant, Special Educational Needs; and Susan La Venture of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, USA.

The event will take place during the

school half-term break from October 28 to 29, 2010, at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham City, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham B5 4EW.

There will be informal, interactive workshops covering topics such as family support, mobility and education.

There will also be plenty of time for entertainment and relaxation, and a chance to meet other families – and siblings – in a similar situation.

National Blind Children's Society chief executive Carolyn Fullard said: 'This important initiative with Guide Dogs is a significant development for us.'

'The conference will help many families who need our support in caring for children and young people with visual impairment and we are delighted that Guide Dogs for the Blind is joining us in making it possible.'

Tom Pey, Guide Dogs Director of External Affairs, said: 'If the life chances of children and young people who are blind and partially sighted are to improve, parents, teachers, professionals and the children themselves need to learn how to work together.'

'We are delighted to join NBCS in what we hope will be the first of many such conferences.'

Conference fees

Sample cost for a family of two adults and two children, one over 12 and one under, with two nights b&b accommodation sharing one room is £394 less £200 rebate from NBCS, total £194 inc refreshments and lunch. For a detailed breakdown of costs go to www.nbcs.org.uk

Young, free and mobile



Andrea Cooper with her guide dog Cara. Andrea was one of the first under 16s to be trained with a guide dog in the UK

Age is no longer a barrier to owning a guide dog, with school-age young people able to benefit from this life-changing service for the first time.

A three-year pilot study, when four under-16-year-olds were trained with guide dogs, showed an overwhelmingly positive impact.

As a result, Guide

Dogs has decided to remove the minimum age for guide dog ownership, and to roll out the provision of guide dogs to under 16s across the UK.

The scheme offers young people much more than mobility and independence, explains Guide Dogs' Sian Caine Southward: 'School can be a difficult environment if you're blind or partially sighted. Guide dogs have given the young owners in our pilot study freedom and confidence, they've become more settled and motivated, and their work has improved. The scheme also had a social impact in terms of making friends and integrating more easily.'

Young people of secondary school age are most likely to benefit from having a guide dog, but the charity will assess each one individually. Parents, carers and other professionals will be involved in the process from the outset, as they will play a key role in supporting the young person. To find out more call 0845 3727499, email guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk or visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/youngpeople.

How we can help families

NBCS family support officers, often with our educational advocates, talk about our work to medical and other VI organisations, as well as families of children with visual impairment.

NBCS's Wendy Sainsbury, right, explains how this service works.



Much of NBCS's work takes place at and around first diagnosis, when parents can feel isolated and sometimes confused. Some conditions do not require medical follow-up, so once parents leave the clinic or hospital they do not always know where to go. This is where NBCS can be most helpful, especially when arranging referral to statutory agencies for more support.

When parents contact us they are often looking for emotional as much as practical support, so our offer of a sensitive and confidential listening ear is seen as a lifeline. On a practical level, we provide jargon-free information on the child's condition, liaise with hospitals and give advice on benefits.

Every child is unique, and each family has its own unique needs. NBCS aims to be an early and important port of call for parents and guardians caring for children with visual impairment from first diagnosis throughout their education years.

Forward thinking

Blind in Business, which helps people with visual impairment achieve their potential in the workplace, is offering limited places to blind and partially sighted young people aged 13-16 on a careers advisory day in London, called Future Focus, which includes a trip on the London Eye and a Thames boat cruise, on 26 July.

For details email Dan Mitchell on dan@blindinbusiness.org.uk, tel 0207 588 1885.

Wonderful welcome from Wales

The families and children who joined the annual NBCS weekend at the Royal Blind Society's Belmont Hotel in Llandudno were once again warmly welcomed to this lovely North Wales sea-front venue.



Adventure time at the Greenwood Forest Adventure Park in North Wales

All the families were awakened each morning by a rousing, eardrum-splitting chorus from what appeared to be the largest and noisiest seagulls in the UK. Again everyone enjoyed the delicious meals and the friendliness of the dedicated staff.

The weekend started with 'getting to know you' bingo, games of Heads and Tails and Who am I? were played to put everyone in a fun mood on the first night.

On the Saturday a trip to Greenwood Forest Adventure Park near Bangor enabled everyone to have an fantastic time on the Green Dragon eco-rollercoaster, the water boats, the tunnel towers, the soft play area and much more. The children came away with 'tattoos', braids in their hair and great experiences of archery for the first time, great bravery on the 70-metre slide and tremendous fun in the adventure playground.

The fancy dress disco was again very popular on Saturday evening as parents, children and all the staff joined in the fun dressed as 'funny characters' and danced the night away.

All too soon, the weekend came to a close on Sunday after time spent around the beach. New friends had been made, Braille addresses exchanged and fantastic experiences shared in all too short a time.

We are very grateful to Theresa Curbishley and the staff of the Belmont who generously funded our visit to Greenwood Park, gave us the disco on the Saturday night and donated gifts of chocolates for the ladies on Mothers' Day and Easter eggs for the children.

Glenys Critchley,
Education Manager (North)

Out of this world

Our Easter party this year was held at the National Space Centre in Leicester, where 30 children with visual impairment and their families and carers had a cosmically memorable day.

At the National Space Centre, home to the UK's largest planetarium, the children had party fun while learning about planets, stars and rockets, and were free to experience the excitement of discovery with interactive tours in the six interactive galleries.

At lunchtime there was a hot and cold buffet, and afterwards the children paraded their splendid Easter bonnets to lots of applause from families and staff.



Summer fun

Our annual day out at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground near Maidenhead, Berkshire, is one of our most popular family events, and this year it falls on Tuesday 3 August from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

The playground is specially designed for children with disabilities. It includes a large indoor play area with soft play area



and fully equipped arts and craft room. Outside there is lots to do, including special swings, bikes and go-karts. For more details of the facilities go to www.tvap.net.

The day is free for children with a visual impairment plus one parent or guardian. Immediate family members are £2 per person. Bring your own picnic lunch and we'll provide drinks. This day is suitable for families with children under the age of 16.

Booking is essential. Contact Sally Freeman on 01278 764775 or email sally.freeman@nbcs.org.uk.

Diary dates 2010

Sundays 27 June, 12 September and 14 November
11.30am-12.30pm

[SPACE, Preston](#)

The 'Soft Play Area within a Controllable Environment' is the largest multi-sensory room in the UK. Here parents and carers can meet other families, children can meet up with other children with visual impairment and their siblings while enjoying soft play facilities, special equipment, slide, ball pool, hammock, bubble tubes, water bed and interactive tactile toys within a specialist lighting environment.

Booking essential. Contact Glenys Critchley on 01704 562750 or 07779 320661, or email glenys.critchley@nbcs.org.uk.

Wednesday 28 July

[ICT Day](#), NBCS Birmingham office, Shawton House, 792 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham B68 0PJ. Family support, education and CustomEyes large-print books officers also attending.

Tuesday 3 August

[Family day out, Thames Valley Adventure Playground](#). See panel for details.

Sunday 19 September

[Family day out, Drayton Manor Theme Park and Zoo, Tamworth, Staffordshire](#)
 Lots of rides and attractions including 15 acres of open-plan zoo, Dinosaurland and

Join us for some new experiences and challenges to grow independence and make new friends

Thomas the Tank Engine, as well as a children's farm. Exclusive hospitality room, refreshments on arrival, finger buffet lunch and wrist bands for all rides. Children with visual impairment plus one parent/guardian free, immediate family only £10 per child aged 4-11, £15 for 12s and over plus adults. Children 3 and under free.

Booking essential. Contact Sally Freeman on 01278 764775 or email sally.freeman@nbcs.org.uk.

Friday-Sunday 27-29 October

[Family conference](#), Birmingham, in partnership with Guide Dogs for the Blind. See page 12 for details.

Saturday 4 December

[Children's Christmas party](#), Cadbury World, Birmingham. Full day event with hospitality suites, Cadbury World tour, Father Christmas visit, festive lunch and carol singers.
www.cadburyworld.co.uk.

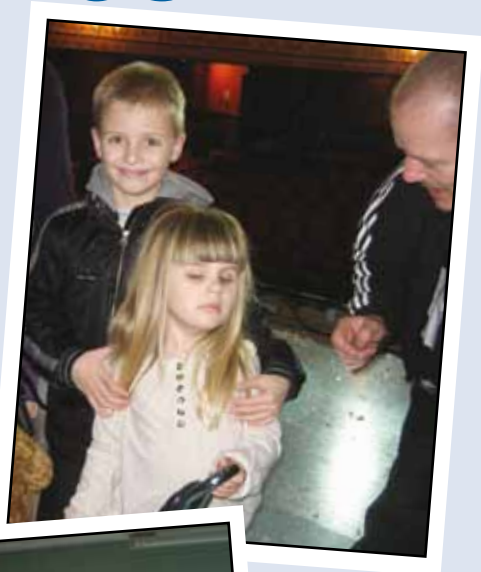
Booking essential. Priority will be given to families who have not been on NBCS outings this year. Contact Sally Freeman on 01278 764775 or email sally.freeman@nbcs.org.uk.

Party fun and games

Below: A young admirer meets Father Christmas at the party in Liverpool



Right: Behind the scenes at our panto visit to see Cinderella in Wolverhampton



Left: In the Easter bonnet parade at the party in Leicester



Above: Teatime at the London Taxi Drivers' Mad Hatters' party



Above: More excitement at the Llandudno Family Weekend in North Wales



Above: NBCS education manager Glenys Critchley gets into character at the Llandudno Family Weekend