

Birtenshaw News

Creating a brighter future for
children with special needs

Jussi Sponsors Birtenshaw

Jussi Jääskeläinen, goalkeeper for Bolton Wanderers FC, is celebrating his Testimonial Year by donating the funds raised to charity.

When Jussi was asked why he chose Birtenshaw as one of the charities for his Testimonial Year he stated: *'We were looking for several charities in the region... Birtenshaw was one of them.'*

The cause is good and the children will greatly benefit from it.'



The Testimonial Year started off well in August with a Testimonial Match against Hibernian and was followed with a dinner with live music and an auction.

More activities will follow throughout the year and the proceeds of these will be equally divided between the charities.

More information on the activities is available on: www.birtenshaw.org.uk and www.bwfc.co.uk.

Let the children speak...

I like going out into the garden on my bike.

Abdul

Inside this issue:

- Jussi Jääskeläinen
- 4th Children's Home in community
- Interview with new Head Teacher of Birtenshaw School
- And lots more

Your feedback is most welcome

We hope you like this newsletter and find it informative. If you would like to make a comment or offer any feedback we would welcome your suggestions.

Please send an email to: enquires@birtenshaw.org.uk

Contact us by telephone on: **01204 304230**

Or write to us at:

Birtenshaw
Darwen Road
Bromley Cross
Bolton
BL7 9AB



Registration of New Children's Home

Birtenshaw is pleased to announce the registration of its fourth Children's Home.

Denstone Crescent, registered for children aged 4 to 19 years who have a significant physical disability, was registered on 4 September 2009.

This new addition means that, along with Darwen Road, Birtenshaw has two

homes dedicated to children who have a physical disability with a further two homes, Green Fields and Harley Avenue, specialising in placements for children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Denstone Crescent is a spacious bungalow comprising a kitchen with dining area, a lounge, a sun room, a bathroom and

three bedrooms. There is also a large safe garden area at the rear of the house.

Part of conversion work was making adaptations to meet the individual needs of each young person.

The three bedrooms on the ground floor are furnished to a very high standard and include all necessary adaptations.

The young people had input into the decoration and personalisation of their bedrooms.



The Sun Lounge

Interview with Head of Care Services on Short Breaks

What are short breaks?

A short break is what used to be called respite care. Short breaks have two elements: a positive experience for children and young people away from their family home/primary carers and a break from caring for parents and carers.



When can we offer short breaks?

Birtenshaw can offer short breaks throughout the year including holiday periods, festivals and public holidays. A short break can be for one day or night, a weekend, a week or even longer.

What does a short break at Birtenshaw involve?

Our aim to provide a positive experience for all children who receive short breaks at Birtenshaw – we like to involve children in planning their stays and choosing activities, a hobby or particular interest or it could be trying something new! Some of the things we offer are: pony riding, music & drama, cycling, arts & crafts, relaxation, canal boat trips, spa days. However just because we have not offered an activity in the past does not mean we could not do so in the future.

What is so special about Birtenshaw's short breaks centre?

We have lots of space and specialist equipment such as tracking and hoists, adapted play equipment in a large secure garden, an interactive hydrotherapy pool, sensory integration suite, play safe room and multi-sensory room.



Who supports the children and young people?

Children and young people are supported by experienced and skilled care staff who are trained and competent in specialist areas.

How can people find out more?

Contact me, Phyl Heaton, on 01204 304230 or e-mail phyl.heaton@birtenshaw.org.uk

Let the children speak...

Roald Dahl is my favourite author, especially the Twits.

Thomas

Interview with our Head Teacher Paul Carolan

Are you enjoying working at Birtenshaw School?

Absolutely – yes! I find the positive atmosphere and wealth of enrichment opportunities on offer very uplifting. It's an honour to work with a truly professional and dedicated team. I'm also really enjoying building relationships with everyone that attends school.

There's some real characters who bring a smile to my face every day and all are making excellent progress in many areas of their Individual programmes.

Have you always been a teacher or have you done other things?

I've done lots of different jobs as well as teaching. I opened an art gallery and interiors shop with my

wife a few years ago. I love travelling to other countries and have probably spent about 2 years visiting places like Nepal, India, Thailand and Sumatra.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like taking my dog, Archie, out for long walks along a river that he can jump into. I play percussion in a band, called 'The Hammoned', with some friends. I play 5-a-side football and squash each week, and have been trying to train for a triathlon this year – but I don't think I'm ready yet!

Which football team do you support?

Ah ha! The big question... I am from Wigan and proud of our team's achievements, but from being a young lad have always

followed Liverpool.

What are your plans for the future?


My plans are to lead Birtenshaw School through exciting developments including the move to a new, purpose built school.

I want Birtenshaw to be widely recognised as an outstanding provider of educational services to children and young people, ensuring a brighter future for everyone who is or becomes part of our extended community.



For more information contact Paul Carolan on 01204 306043.


Let the children speak...



At school I love dinner time.

James

Let the children speak...



I am looking forward to Christmas Day with my family.

Camilla

Pink Afternoon

Birtenshaw School held a "Pink Afternoon" on Thursday, 22 October to support Breast Cancer Awareness. The afternoon took place in the hall and included a Tombola, cake stall, 'Lily the Pink' photographs, Bric-a-Brac and refreshments.

Staff, young people and visitors were asked to wear pink and those choosing not to comply were asked to make a £2 donation.



The afternoon went very well and the hall was alive with the buzz and excitement.

All the stalls proved very popular and there was lots of laughter and frivolity. £120 was raised in total - thank you everyone.

It was lovely to welcome one of our former pupils who attended with her fiancé.

Congratulations on your engagement.

see THE DIFFERENCE

New Donations Website

'See the difference' is a new service which offers people the chance to really find out where their money is going when they donate to charity.

Birtenshaw is going to be one of the charities highlighted in the launch of this new way of donating.

Through the likes of 'Facebook', 'Twitter' and 'YouTube' people will find out about the 'See the difference' website. This site will enable people to choose where they

want their donations to go. A charity will have a 90 second film on the site highlighting what they want the money for and the total amount they need for the project.

People can then donate to the cause they feel most strongly about and get to find out exactly what their money has achieved for that charity.

The launch will take place on 14th February 2010 with Birtenshaw presenting film's which are asking people to

donate to a Touch Screen Computer that children can use to aid their communication and for the future foundations of the new Birtenshaw School and Short Break Centre.

To take part go to:

<http://see-the-difference.ning.com>

Let the children speak...

People coughing makes me laugh.

Matthew

easyfundraising
- .org.uk

Another way of giving is through easy fundraising. This is easy to use and whenever you shop online you will be giving a percentage to the charity of your choice. So you can shop and feel like you have made a difference to someone else all at the same time, win-win we think.

Please visit:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known retailers including many popular names such as Amazon, Next, Argos, John Lewis and HMV and when you shop using the links on their website, up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to Birtenshaw – without any additional costs for you.

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds for Birtenshaw using the site, and as many retailers now give extra discounts when you buy online, you can even save money!

All information on how this works can be obtained on the website.

Let the children speak...

Listening to music is my favourite thing to do.

Kelsey

How to contact us:



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BL7 9AB

Phone:
01204 304230
Fax:
01204 602328

We are also on the Web!
Please visit our website:
www.birtenshaw.org.uk

Email:
enquiries@birtenshaw.org.uk