



***“The solution is ..... understanding”***

Unit 7 Space Business Centre, Strood, Kent ME2 2BF

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Website: [www.medway-magic.org](http://www.medway-magic.org)

## **Newsletter January 2012 to April 2012**

Welcome all MAGIC members, we have many dates for your diary and hope you enjoy the great things we have organised over the next months. **Please check the website before heading to any of our events – if we are forced to cancel a date it will be posted on [www.medway-magic.org](http://www.medway-magic.org)**

### **NEW OFFICE DETAILS**

MAGIC have now moved from the Darnley Road site into a fantastic new office!!! After 6 years based in MAGIC's Development Consultant Gayna Simmonds house, what started as a few files had grown to take up all of her downstairs! It was definitely time to move on. MAGIC would like to thank Gayna for allowing us to use her house for so long and being tolerant in the search for new premises. The new office details are below, **please note there is also a change of phone and email.**

New Address	<b>Unit 7 Space Business Centre, Strood, Kent ME2 2BF</b>
New Phone Number	<b>01634 292015</b>
New Office Email	<b><a href="mailto:office@medway-magic.org">office@medway-magic.org</a></b>
Steph Turner's Email	<b><a href="mailto:admin@medway-magic.org">admin@medway-magic.org</a></b>
Website (no change)	<b><a href="http://www.medway-magic.org">www.medway-magic.org</a></b>
Mobile (emergencies only)	<b>07847 306473</b>
Opening times	<b>Monday – Thursday 9.30 – 2.30</b>

We have been working very hard to get the office up and running in time for January and want to thank everyone for being patient if they had experienced any difficulties contacting us during the transition. Please remember that the office will continue to be manned by volunteers who are not always available to take your call, if you need to leave a message, there is an answer phone available and someone will call you back. We recommend emailing us or checking MAGIC's comprehensive website as most information can be found there. If you plan to visit the office please contact us in advance to make an appointment.

### **OFFICE OPENING**

MAGIC are planning an Office Opening Ceremony. Information will be sent out once we have finalised a date. All MAGIC members are welcome to come along and enjoy some refreshments while show off our lovely new office.

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**During term time on a Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am at Woodies, Arethusa Road, Rochester.**

As usual we serve a delicious buffet breakfast with plenty of cuppas and have some excellent guest speakers. Our first guest this year is Kim Selby on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan when we will also be having our 'I survived Christmas' breakfast. Gayna Simmonds will be running Autism training sessions through February. We also have Karen Pye visiting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March who will be talking about the important changes to Direct Payments. Trish Gayle will be running the popular and successful Behaviour Exchange program starting 9<sup>th</sup> March then weekly on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> March.

## **YOUTH CLUB**

**Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm – 8.00pm at Woodies, Arethusa Road, Rochester**

Youth club for 8-12 year olds, 50p per child per session. **Please note that 8.00pm is now the new finish time. The final youth club session before the February break will be 7<sup>th</sup> February resuming again on 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Thursday evenings from 6:30pm – 8.30pm at Woodies, Arethusa Road, Rochester**

Youth club for those aged 13+, 6.30 to 8.30pm, 50p per child per session. The second Thursday session of the 13+ youth club will be the older session of Monkey Bizz, 6.15 to 8.00pm. Cost is £5.50 per child per session. **The final youth club session before the February break will be 9<sup>th</sup> February resuming again on 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Youth Club is for MAGIC members only. Children must be picked up promptly after a session.

## **MAGIC FOOTBALL**

**Thursday evenings from 7:30pm – 8.30pm at Woodies, Arethusa Road, Rochester**

The MAGIC Football Club is held on a Thursday during Youth Club. It caters for all levels of ability and is great fun, for further information please talk to Gayna or contact the MAGIC office.

## **MONKEY BIZZ**

The first (under 10's) and second (over 10's) Thursday of the month, 6.15pm – 8.00pm at Monkey Bizz, Medway City Estate. Siblings welcome at either session. Cost is £5.50 per session.

## **ACTIVITY DAYS**

MAGIC are running three Activity Days during the February holiday. Dates are Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Booking is now open, spaces are filled quickly so early booking is recommended, closing date for applications is 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Booking forms are on our website [www.medway-magic.org](http://www.medway-magic.org) or available from all our usual events. If your children are booked on please check our website for details of what activities they will be doing and provide them with any necessary items, for example swimming costume or sportswear. Some activities will be offsite so please send your child in suitable clothing/footwear for the weather and location.

## **SANTA FUN RUN**

MAGIC want to say a big well done to Gayna for completing the Santa fun run on 19<sup>th</sup> November at Rochester Castle. She has raised over £600 which was jointly split between MAGIC and Medway Rotary Club for distribution to other charities.

## **Bowling Party**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at AMF Gravesend from 6pm till 8pm**

This is free to all MAGIC members though booking is essential. We will be enjoying a shared 'bring a plate' buffet. Please contact Steph by calling the office or email her on [admin@medway-magic.org](mailto:admin@medway-magic.org) to book a place and confirm food to bring along. Parents will be required to stay and supervise their children at this event.

## **AGM**

MAGIC will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> AGM in March at Woodies. All MAGIC members are welcome to this important meeting. The date is to be confirmed so check our website and watch out for flyers at all our usual events.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

### **Good Friday – 6<sup>th</sup> April at Kingsnorth Nature Reserve from 11am till 2pm**

Booking is essential for this popular event at the lovely Kingsnorth Nature Reserve. There are lots of games, craft activities and an Easter egg hunt. All Children will receive an egg. Hot drinks are available at a small charge and a light buffet will be provided. Cost is £1.00 per child, please book with Steph by calling the office or email her on [admin@medway-magic.org](mailto:admin@medway-magic.org) Parents will be required to stay and supervise their children at this event.

## **MAGIC MEMBERSHIP**

MAGIC will be increasing its annual membership subscription from February 2012 to £20 per year per family. This increase has been necessary due to the rise in cost of pretty much everything. However we think £20 is a real bargain as membership will continue to provide exclusive and subsidised access to all our events plus expert help and advice from many professionals.

## **CHILD PROTECTION – IMPORTANT!**

MAGIC's strict child protection policies prevent any adult MAGIC volunteer from responding or replying to any contact made by members children, please can we ask all members to make their children aware that they should not email, text, write or send facebook requests to an adult MAGIC volunteer. If they wish to discuss anything with an adult MAGIC volunteer it should be done during a MAGIC activity such as Youth Club.



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
VOLUNTEER  
FOR MAGIC**

**Over the last few years MAGIC has grown in membership numbers and increased the events we organise. However we have not seen an increase in the number of volunteers we have. To be able to continue to do the things we do we need more volunteers to help the often overstretched ones we have. There are many opportunities, from working in the office to helping at our youth club and other events. If you have, or know of someone who has, a few hours free and would like to be involved in something that is fun, rewarding and really makes a difference to families of children with Autism please contact us!**