

# SCOTTISH FAMILY DAY 2017

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Glynhill Hotel Renfrew

We started the day with tea/coffee and our usual catch up whilst the children settled into the crèche. We are so lucky to have the same crèche and workers every year. They all know our children so well and the children really look forward to spending the day with them all.

We had a packed morning with very varied speakers. Firstly we welcomed Bonnie McKerracher, Bonnie is the Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society (Europe) secretary. She gave a wonderful talk telling us her story and how fantastic her daughter had done achieving her university degree. She also spoke about their conference they hold every 2 years. We are very excited to hear it will be in Glasgow in 2018 so hopefully our SOFT family's will attend; I know I will certainly be there.

Next we were delighted to welcome back Karen McIntosh. Karen used to be a nursing sister in Queen Mother Hospital in Glasgow and attended regularly when in this role. She is now the Scottish Co-ordinator for ARC and she gave a very informative and compassionate presentation. It's great to be in touch with Karen again.

Our final speaker before lunch was our regular star Dr Una MacFayden. Una supports us every year and her talk is always very informative and helpful to our members. She also spends as much time as needed answering everybody's questions.

After lunch we had our parent speaker. This year it was Libby Morrissey who is mum to Sophie who has T13. Libby told her story, telling us of how when Sophie was born she was told there was no hope and it was all doom and gloom. Sophie, like many of our children proved them wrong and was happily sitting alongside mum and gran Liz as we listened. Another truly inspiring and heart-warming story that gives hope and strength to others.

Jan Fowler our chair gave her update on SOFT and told our members of our concerns re our financial position.

To finish off this year we done something different to a Balloon release. Our children were working very hard in the crèche painting pebbles collected from a windy Scottish beach (thanks Laura and Faith) to create our SOFT rainbow. It was beautiful. We were then able to take some of the pebbles home with us.

Some of our families then used the leisure facilities before we all met for evening meal. This is always so enjoyable and allows us all more time to chat and socialise in a more relaxed atmosphere.

*“It was a fantastic day and night and as always the feedback was brilliant. This day means so much to us all in Scotland and we all look forward to it every year.”*

*-Liz Egan, Trustee*

