

Days Out With Dad – Chairman’s Report 2013

At the close of 2013, Days Out With Dad has facilitated 48 events for children to enjoy with their fathers. More than 100 families – over 300 individuals – local to South Herefordshire have participated in our events over the years, with children ranging in age from 1 to 16yrs. The organisation will enter its 6th year in 2014 and is now a well-known name in the county. This has all been achievable thanks to a small number of volunteers giving up their spare time to make it all happen, to the support of those who have funded our work, and to those individuals who have given freely of their time to run one or more events. Our thanks go out to all of them.

We have held 10 events in 2013, including outdoor adventure, educational, musical and sporting events, which were match-funded by a Herefordshire Council Community Project Grant. The year’s project, “Involve a Dad”, encouraged dads to come forward with ideas in order to take advantage of an average £400 budget to make them happen. We were delighted to have several dads come forward and support us in this way, and we see this approach as a great one to develop further in the future – not just to spread the ownership of the group more widely, but also to ensure its longer term sustainability in so doing.

Securing funds, and reporting thereon, can be very demanding on volunteer time, and takes up a considerable proportion of the overall effort, but is crucial to ensuring that we can continue to offer our events at a cost that is not exclusive, but widely affordable. We continue to ensure that no event – not even a flagship event – is billed at more than £5/head/day, and it is funding that helps to ensure that this remains possible.

We are delighted to see more and more families sign themselves up via the Days Out With Dad website to our email distribution list (which currently stands at 153), and to discover new schools, children’s centres and other organisations and individuals that have come to hear about us through word-of-mouth and that freely promote our events. That said, we are also aware of the potential to spread word of our events much wider, and will be looking in 2014 to see what we can do by way of a significant marketing effort. It is hoped this will enable us not only to reach many more families who may benefit from our events, but also to further ensure the sustainability of Days Out With Dad as it continues to mature.

We continue to strive to be an open organisation, to all who wish to participate, and look forward to another year of fun and enjoyment in the events that have yet to come.

David Martin

Chairman

Days Out With Dad

January 2014