

Steps

**SPECIAL TOYS EDUCATIONAL
POSTAL SERVICE**

WELCOME TO OUR
SUMMER
NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 - August 2011

Outside fun with Steps
Toys ...

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- Fun, fun, fun



*"Ideal toys
for taking
outside
and having
fun in
the sun!"*



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About Steps

Some of you may be old friends of Steps but for our newer members - a little bit of background.

- Steps celebrated its 21st birthday in March this year and is delighted to have helped hundreds and hundreds of children over that time.
- We are a specialist toy library and there are very few around, particularly run as a charity and offering a service nationwide.
- We have an extensive library and a schedule of cleaning, testing and maintaining the toys so they are 'tip-top' for our library loans.
- We provide toys to families, organisations and hospices.
- We are continuously fundraising to support the subsidized membership fees and our Membership Support Fund.
- The charity has a staff of 5 people, only one full-timer, who are responsible for the Toy Library, Admin and Electronic areas and is overseen by a group of Trustees.
- The aim of the Charity has never changed - to see as many children as possible enjoy independent play with the same high street toys that their friends have.

Local mayor cuts the Steps Birthday cake with some of our volunteers



All about You

We believe that no disabled child should be denied the magical, life-enhancing developmental benefits of play...

○ Our Personal Matching Service

This service offers you the benefit of our years of experience and knowledge of toys and switches to search the toy library for the most beneficial toy and switch for you and your child

○ Your Feedback

We ask for your feedback every time you exchange a toy with us. This helps us to understand your child's needs and if there have been any changes to their likes or dislikes.

○ Membership Benefits

Don't forget your membership entitles you to exchange your toy and switch every 3-4 months

(or as often as you like with **Premium!**)

You can also order your free t-shirt, printed with a photo of your choice.

Also Premium members are invited to our AGM and to visit Steps for a tour around and tea & biscuits.

Of course, we also welcome your call at any point - we are here to help!

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Introducing Steps2 Inclusion

Since 2005 we have been doing some ground-breaking work with four marginalised groups which are:

- o Adults with Learning Disabilities
- o Young Offenders
- o Long Term Unemployed
- o People in Recovery from Mental Health Issues

We have successfully secured financial support through the Big Lottery, to help local marginalised people in our local community by offering **Work skills / Learning / Training Placements**. The project is built around the Charity, enabling our placements to be truly involved, making a difference to profoundly disabled children's lives. We offer the service at no cost to organisations or individuals (*subject to an interview & risk assessment*).

What our placements say about us: "A truly wonderful place to work and build ones confidence, I am given plenty of support and its great being around an exceptional working team".



Placements
Learning IT
skills at
Steps

For more information please contact:
April Tims on 01803 295138.



Steps To Commerce is a community interest company set up to raise money for Steps Charity. They are now offering a toy adaptation service so when Christmas and birthdays come, you can have that 'must have' battery-operated toy adapted for your child or young person to keep.

Interested?

- o Select the toy that you want adapted
- o note down the name of the toy, and the make, and contact us to discuss and get a quotation

If we are both happy to proceed, send us the toy with the quoted fee, along with postage and packing costs (a cheque is fine, made payable to Steps2commerce). Please see estimated prices below.



If there are any unexpected extra costs or the toy can only be adapted in a certain way - we will give you a ring to see if you want to go ahead and you will incur no costs until you agree to proceed.



- o Prices are from £30 for a basic toy to £120 for a sophisticated toy, which requires a microprocessor and re-programming.

Contact AdaptAToy on 01803 311322 or email adaptatoy1@hotmail.co.uk

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Thank You's

Abbey Contracts - Mick Shelley,
9 Ilsham Road, Torquay, TQ1 2JG.
Telephone: 07968 733021

Anode Charity - for their help with our
building <http://www.anodecharity.co.uk/>

Firewatch - for helping make the office safe
for us and our volunteers
<http://www.firewatchsouthwest.co.uk>

GMB Union - for the donations from their
members
<http://www.gmb.org.uk/home.aspx>

Ian Tomlinson- for helping with our IT issues
<http://www.tomlinson-support.co.uk/>

House of Tiles - for their help with our
building <http://www.thehouseoftiles.co.uk/>

Tower House School PTA - for their donation
<http://www.towerhouseschool.com>

Rotary Club Tormohun - for their donation
<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=1067>

Royal Mail - for matching their staff's
fundraising <http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm>

And to our amazing recent
fundraisers:

Jack Stacey

Reg Horner

Thank you for your kind
donations, your offers of
service and support.



*Sophie
testing
the toys
before
despatch*

Fun, fun, fun

*Following the theft of a thousand wigs,
police officers are combing the area.*

*Following a break-in at a plumbing
centre and the reported theft of a 100
toilets, police had er, nothing to go
on.....heheheheh*

*Did you hear about this new breed of dog
from America? It is a pit bull crossed
with a collie. It bites your leg and then
goes for help.*

*For the physicists amongst you... a
neutron walks into a bar and says, 'I'll
have a pint of beer and a packet of
crisps. How much? The bartender dead-
panned, 'For you, no charge'.*

*A duck went into a chemist and spent a
lot of time in choosing a
lipstick. Walking up to the
assistant, the duck
quacked, 'How much is this
please, and can you put it on
my bill?'*

