



# YOUTH FORUM NEWS



A Quarterly Newsletter by Mencap NI Youth Forum

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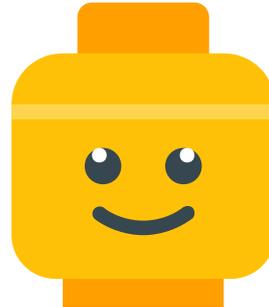
## Welcome to the second Youth Forum News

We have some more stories that we hope you will enjoy. Over the past few months we have been thinking a lot about the environment and climate change as this is important to us. We are thinking of different ways to mark earth day on 22 April and will share with you how we get on in the next issue.



# My Lego Story

By Catriona Ferrin



Mum and Dad brought me back the Big Bang Theory lego set from Donegal about seven years ago!! I loved the build so much

I started collecting the bigger Modules. It has become an addiction, a very expensive addiction lol! But I enjoy building so much, the bigger the build the better. My biggest build so far is the Ghost Busters Headquarters! My favourite build so far is Stranger Things. I have lots of favourites like the Friends set, Home Alone, The Diner, the Haunted House and lots of Harry Potter sets.





Some of the sets have over 6,000 bricks and can take me a week to build. I also enjoy the art work sets. And I collect the Mini figures. I frame the mini figures and put them on my wall. I went to Legoland in Windsor. It was fantastic. There is going to be a new Lego store opening in Dublin, the first store in Ireland. I will definatly be going there for my birthday in August! Just need to save lots of money! 😊



By Catriona Ferrin

# Did you know...

By Aisling Trainor

The Wizard of Oz is a classic Hollywood movie that is still loved by many today. Margret Hamilton, who played the wicked witch actually ended up with severe injuries whilst filming the movie on set. On the 23rd of December 1938, Hamilton experienced an accident on set that resulted in a second-degree burn on her face and third-degree burns on her hands.

When filming the scene when the witch leaves Munchkin Land, there had been a plan in place on how it was going to be done. But as you guessed, it did not go according to plan. A trap door's drop had been delayed, and the flames that were meant to appear during her disappearance burned her while she was still above the flooring. She ended up recovering for six weeks after that which delayed the filming process. She had some scars on her hands and face afterwards.



# Did you know...

Did you know that... Fluffy from Harry Potter was based on another three headed dog? We all know from the Harry Potter movies that there are some strange and magical creatures. But none as strange (or as friendly) as Fluffy – Hagrid’s three-headed dog. Originally seen as the guard dog for the philosopher’s stone, it was revealed to us that Fluffy was all bark no bite once he got some treats.



However, the dog Fluffy is based on is a dog from Greek mythology called Cerberus, and he was seen as a very grumpy dog. He was also known as the Hound of Hades. Hades was the God of the Underworld and what most people know as Hell. Cerberus’s job was to keep anyone from leaving the Underworld. He was a guard dog to Hades the same was Fluffy was to the philosopher’s stone and Dumbledore.



Did you know... that originally Women’s History Month was just “Women’s Day?” In honour of Women’s History Month in March, I wanted to dive into the history behind this widely celebrated month. Originally, women were only allowed to celebrate women’s history on one day. In the US, this was called National Women’s Day (NWD) and this was on the 28th of February 1909, but it wasn’t until 1911 that the first International Women’s Day took place (with Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland taking part). In 1975, the event was made ‘official’ by through recognition by the United Nations (UN). We now celebrate International Women’s Day on the 8th of March each year. This celebration aims to acknowledge the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.

By Aisling Trainor

# My Fun Shopping Trips

By Clodhna McCrory

For as long as I can remember my mummy has been bringing me shopping. My favourite place to go shopping is DV8 in Belfast. I love DV8 because they have lots of nice clothes. My favourite brands of clothes are Gym King, Tommy Hilfiger and Vans. I love modelling and showing off my clothes. I really enjoy shopping because I get to spend time with my mummy. She gets a coffee and I get a smoothie.

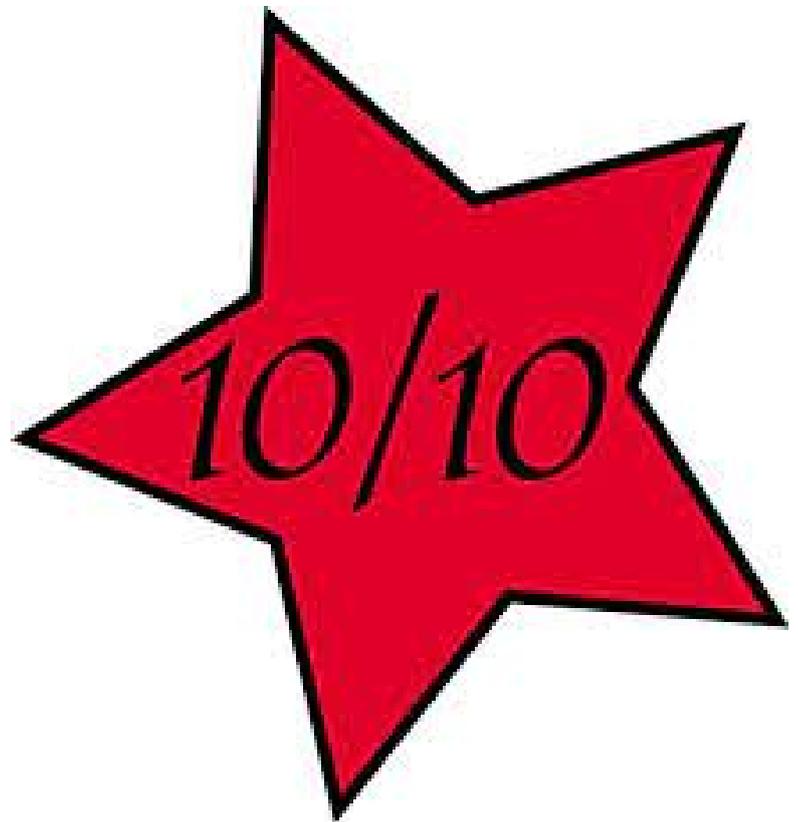
My next trip shopping is to Dublin. I am really looking forward to it! We are going to Dublin Zoo after my shopping trip which I am so excited for. My favourite animals are elephants



## Gamers Corner

### A review of Rec Room by Ethan Kennedy

I really enjoy my time in rec room because you can do a lot of stuff like playing over 100,000+ games/rooms to enjoy. You can customise your dorm. You can make your own games/rooms for people to enjoy.



**I give rec room  
10 out of 10!**



# Youth Forum Recommends

## Belfast and surrounding areas:

I totally recommend you go to Prison Island. It is amazing and very fun. It requires knowledge and strength. There are lots of different rooms including a knowledge room and a tilted room. I had such a good time when I went.

By James Meikle Duffy



## Fermanagh:

### Erne adventures

We recommend you come visit fermanagh and take a go on the water bikes. This is a really good way to get a great view of Enniskillen and you can see around the whole town

By Cora Bogue



If you have young kids or just like animals you should go to Fermanagh Fun Farm in Lisbellaw, it is a lot of fun.

It is a social enterprise too.

By Ciara Maguire



# Youth Forum Recommends

## Fermanagh:

Fermanagh is an island town and I recommend you to get the Kestrel waterbus at the Round 'O' and travel to Devenish Island. You can also get a water taxi at Castle Archdale to White Island

By Joseph Bradley



## National Trust



Somewhere I love to visit every week and was lovely to have during lockdown is Florence Court National trust site. It has beautiful walks you can take your dog on and enjoy the beautiful walled gardens

By Laura Keenan

# Did you know...

By Aisling Trainor

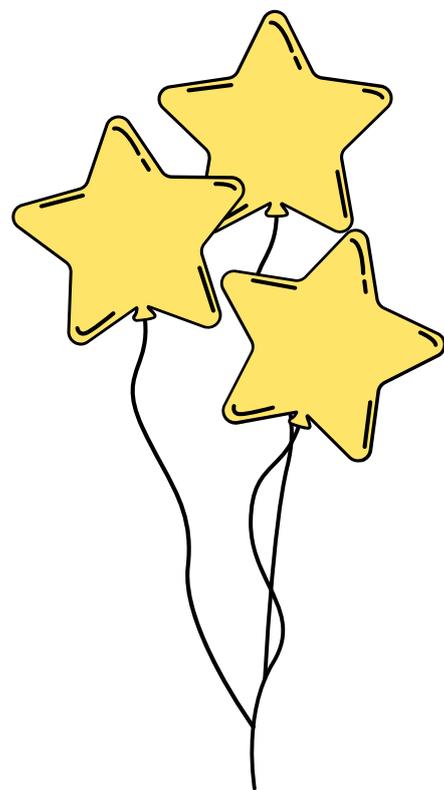
## Animal facts:

- Snails can sleep for up to three years – this can be due to the weather because snails have both winter hibernation and a mini one called 'summer sleep time.'
  - Polar bears are left handed.
  - Elephants can't physically jump.
- Frogs have a 360° vision because of the shape of their eyes.
- Axolotls are from Mexico and mainly eat pond plants.
  - Armadillos can catch leprosy.
  - Crocodiles cannot stick their tongue out.
- The horned lizard is able to shoot blood from its own eyes, up to a distance of 3 feet away. The rather bizarre and disgusting act is a defensive mechanism to confuse predators.



# We are we working on?

We are planning a fashion show fundraiser to fundraise for Mencap NI and Habitat for Humanity. We want to do this to promote sustainable fashion and to raise awareness about how clothes can impact the environment.



If clothes people no longer want end up are not reused or recycled they can end up in landfill which is bad for the environment. Because fashion is a big part of our society we thought it would be a good way to connect everyone whilst we try to raise awareness and fundraise.



We are excited to organise these shows and we are planning to have one fashion show in Belfast and one in Enniskillen. We will let you know how we are getting on in the next issue of the Youth Forum News

