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*Fledglings is a national charity which supports parents and carers of children with special needs by finding affordable solutions to everyday practical problems. We offer a free of charge bespoke information service which addresses individual needs of each child and family.*

**Issue 24 July 2010**



Dear Friend

Over the last few weeks, we have been trying to keep cool in our office with temperatures here up to 30 degrees. We are on the upper floor and with a flat roof above and only one window, so that has been difficult, but we do have two large fans which were bought at low cost and they have just done the trick.

It occurred to me that these fans were quite representative of many of the products that we supply at Fledglings. They are purchased to solve a problem, they are effective and they don't cost the earth. It is our mission at Fledglings to help solve the difficulties that you bring to us with the most appropriate products and the best value for money.

This involves a lot of work visiting exhibitions, searching through catalogues and the internet, speaking to sympathetic companies and helping to design new items, then testing them out with families to try to address a range of needs that your calls and emails have identified. We do not charge for these activities, which is why we have to apply for grants and ask for donations as we want to continue to keep our prices as low as possible.

In the next few days some of you will be receiving a request from us to fill out a questionnaire about our service as we need to convince the BIG Lottery Fund that we have used their grant wisely. If you are one of the families selected at random to complete it, please try to find time to answer the five questions – and if you do not receive it but have something to say about the service we offer, we'd be pleased to receive an email from you.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruth'.

Ruth Lingard Executive Director

**New Prices from Monday 12th July**

We have recently undergone a price review of the products that we supply. We had hoped that we could maintain the prices in our brochure Issue 3 for the duration i.e. until 2011. However, with prices from our suppliers rising above the prices we are currently charging in some cases, this is clearly no longer possible. We have therefore considered every product in detail, made increases where necessary but where possible, we have managed to reduce some prices too.

**These changes will come into effect with orders placed**



from today, Monday 12th July.

Our online brochure will show changes in the body of the text and discontinued products will be identified with some alternative products also illustrated. This revised copy of the brochure is unfortunately not available in print. An A4 sheet detailing just the changes to the existing brochure can also be downloaded from the website and printed, or feel free to [contact us](#) for a printed copy. Brochures mailed out after July 12th will contain this updated sheet.

**Click the brochure image to the left to view the changes.**

[Click to visit products page](#)

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### **Fledglings Coffee Morning - This Wednesday!**

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We would like to extend an invitation to any of you who live within striking distance of South Cambridgeshire to come to our **coffee morning and product exhibition on Wednesday July 14th**

The event will be held in Ickleton Village Hall. Ickleton is a small village in South Cambridgeshire and is easily accessed from the A11, the M11 and the A505 (see map on flyer).

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

N.B. Fledglings office will be closed on July 14th until 2pm.



[Click to view flyer with more information](#)

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### **Body Worn Sleeping Bag Available in Summer Weight**

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These sleeping bags which have become increasingly popular are available in a summer weight in the following fabrics – lemon, blue and pink gingham. This summer version consists of a lined single sheet so children should stay relatively cool during the warmer weather.

When ordering it is important to select the right length for your child. Please bear in mind when measuring that your child's foot may be extended whilst in the sleeping bag. Therefore the length of the child's foot should be added to the measurement from their shoulder to the ground plus a little extra for growing room. As these sleeping bags are all made to order a roomier version is available in some designs if requested.

The sleeping bag can be found on page 8 of our product brochure. [Click to visit our products page.](#)



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### **Family Fund Changes Criteria to Help More Families**

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I'm sure many of you will be aware of the Family Fund which helps families on low incomes caring for a severely disabled child to take a holiday or to purchase equipment such as a washing machine. The Family Fund has recently changed its income criteria. It now can help families whose income, discounting Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Child Benefit, is £25,000 if you live in England or £27,000 if you live in other parts of the United Kingdom. The Fund is also now able to help young people aged 16 and 17 years of age with items such as driving lessons or a computer or other items.

For further information about these changes visit:  
[www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

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### **Fledglings' First Wedding**

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Katie, who many of you will know as the voice at the end of our Helpline and who designs this monthly e-Newsletter, is getting married to her partner, Rob, on August 14th. This is the very first wedding of a member of our team but it is particularly significant to Fledglings as Katie, whose last name is Woodcock, is going to become a Mallard! We are giving her a lot of teasing about this but we thought you'd all like to join us in wishing Katie and Rob a very happy day and a great future together. Pictures to follow!



Woodcock



Mallard

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**View our video.** As publicity for reaching the Lottery finals for Best Voluntary/Charity Project a film was produced about our work [click here to view](#)

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*Fledglings relies heavily on donations and grants for the income we need to continue our work. We're extremely grateful for all the help we receive. The money is all put to good use helping children and families.*

**Donate  
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