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***photo opportunity – see programme below**

JUMPING UP AND DOWN FOR CHILDREN NEED

BOXERS do it and even Kangaroos do it, but staff in Harrogate’s leisure department are hoping that hundreds of local children and adults will get out their skipping ropes and join in the district’s first-ever Skipathon in aid of Children in Need. The Skipathon has been organised by Sara Atkins, the council’s Community Services Manager and is being held across the district’s leisure centres, community centres and in schools in Harrogate and Ripon on Friday, 19 November.

Teams in fancy dress will be skipping at Knaresborough Pool, Starbeck Baths, Fairfax Community Centre, Boroughbridge Leisure Centre, Rossett Sports Centre, Granby Community Leisure Centre and the Victoria Shopping Centre in Harrogate. Staff will also be out and about in Ripon skipping into local schools, across the Market Square and down to the Ripon Leisure Centre, Councillor Stuart Martin, Mayor of Ripon City, is supporting the event.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: “This looks like being a great deal of fun. But there is a serious message. We can all do our bit to help those who are less fortunate than us and I hope we raise a lot of money. But this community event is also aimed at getting people to take up some sort of exercise. Skipping is free, you don’t need to spend a fortune on equipment – even a bit of old washing line would do – and you can stay at home to do it on the drive or in the garden. Boxers skip because it is one of the best cardiovascular exercises there is.

“Our staff have been visiting local schools to get them skipping for this worthy cause and at the same time to encourage a return to the days when school playgrounds were full of children skipping along to such rhymes as ‘all in together now, never mind the weather now.’”

The full schedule of skipping events as follows – skippers will be asked to pay 50p for Children in Need.

Friday, 19 November 2004

10.30 am The Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate, Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley, Councillor Pat Jones and Pudsey Bear will be inviting everyone to ‘skip along’ when the event starts outside the Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate at 10.30 am on Friday, 19 November. Staff from Crescent Gardens will be taking part

- 10.30 am Staff from Dept of Leisure and Amenity Services will start their sponsored skip in fancy dress into Harrogate town centre and Knaresborough and make collections.
- 11.00 am Staff in Scottsdale House will hold a skipping workshop in the car park.
- 12 noon Ripon Leisure Centre skippers will arrive in Market Square where the Mayor of Ripon will meet them. Skipping workshops for general public.
- 12.30 pm Leisure staff will arrive at Victoria Shopping Centre and Knaresborough Pool skippers will arrive at Knaresborough Market Place for skipping workshops for the public.
- 12.30 pm Rossett Sports Centre staff to hold skipping workshops for years 7 and 8.
- 2.00 pm Ripon Leisure Centre staff will hold skipping workshops at Holy Trinity School
- 2.30 pm Boroughbridge Leisure Centre staff will skip into town and hold a skipping activity in Morrison's car park
- 3.00 pm Knaresborough Pool will encourage the swimming development scheme to warm up by skipping.
- 3.30 pm The Great Granby School Skipathon, prizes for children who have collected the most money. To create the 'great' in this event, more children are needed.
- 5.00 pm Youngsters on sports development football scheme will be skipping at Boroughbridge Leisure Centre.
- 6.00 pm Fairfax Friday Night FEVA young people will be skipping during youth club session.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones is available for comment on 01423 872466. Further information on the event is available from Sara Atkins, Community Services Manager on 01423 556723. And to book a place at the Great Granby School Skipathon, contact Andrew Wilson on 01423 556725.