

David is a Superhair-o for autism charity.



[Autism Unlimited](#) staff member David Batt will be feeling the cold even more this winter after shaving his head for the charity's Climbing Frame Fundraising Appeal.

IT Technician David, 61, had been sporting eye-catching, teal-coloured hair - the charity's brand colour - before the big shave on January 14th.

His locks were shorn by Trev Kearn, the Head of Estates for Christchurch-based Autism Unlimited, much to the delight of his assembled colleagues.

Sponsorship from David's head shave will go towards the £26k needed to fund new play equipment for the youngest students at the charity's Portfield School in Parley.

The children of the reception-age class, Stepping Stones, have been without a climbing frame since October half term when the previous structure was removed after falling into disrepair.

The appeal is running until January 31st, and the charity hopes to install a new climbing frame in the February half term.

Inspecting his newly bald head David joked: "This is going to be a big surprise to my grandchildren!"

“I’ve drawn quite a lot of attention in the past week with bright teal hair, but it has made people smile and has enabled me to tell a lot of people about the work of Autism Unlimited and the appeal.”

He continued: “Losing my hair completely is a small price to pay for being able to help the appeal and I’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has already supported me. I have achieved beyond my fundraising target of £200 already, and I’m hoping people who haven’t already done so, might consider donating to boost my total even further.”

Anna Hewitt, Headteacher at Portfield School said: “We are all bursting with gratitude and admiration for David – especially as he will be without his hair during the coldest part of the year!

“David knows that for autistic children, play has a vital role in supporting their focus, decreasing stress, and helping them to regulate, leading to reduced stress, anxiety, and frustration. The new play equipment will enrich the lives of all our current Early Years students and future proof the playground for students to come. David’s head shave will have played a part in making that happen.”

Businesses and individuals are being asked to support the appeal in any way they can, including by direct donation or through their own fundraising event.

David can still be sponsored at: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-batt-1733735711408>

For more information and to donate, please get in touch with Carol Borwick via email on: fundraising@autism-unlimited.org, or give the team a call on: 01202 483360. Head to Autism Unlimited’s website to find out more: <https://www.autism-unlimited.org/christmas-fundraising-appeal/>

Ends.

Picture caption: HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW - David Batt, IT Technician at Autism Unlimited’s Portfield School in Parley braved the shave in aid of the school’s play equipment appeal. David is seen here with Trev Kearl, the Head of Estates for the Christchurch-based charity, who acted as barber for the shave.

Autism Unlimited, based in Christchurch, is a leading charity which provides education, independent living skills and careers guidance for autistic children and young adults.

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