

Newsletter: Home-Start North West Hampshire, Rucstall Community Centre,
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Community Newsletter...

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter – we hope you enjoy reading what we have been up to within the Scheme since our last Newsletter!

Birth of Oaks & Acorns Community Cafe

At the end of April, we launched our skills sharing café Oaks & Acorns. This Intergenerational Cafe, welcomes people of all ages (0-110 years) to come together to enjoy a drink and cake with activities for everyone to enjoy or just sit and chat. Since the Café has started we have had one of our regulars, Fred, share his experiences and knowledge of living in the outback of Australia, a visit from Debutots, an interactive story telling workshop, balloon tennis, bingo and recipe sharing! These are just a few of the activities that take place every Thursday morning from 10:30am-11:45am. If you have not had a chance to pop in please do, although be warned you may end up joining in a game of balloon tennis!

Oaks and Acorns has become the next natural step for our HSNWH families whose support has ended to keep in touch and still enjoy regular activities with us.



Cook Together Course

Our 1st Cook Together 6 week Course run by Dawn was an amazing success giving families an opportunity to taste and make dishes they would not normally do at home.

6 Families attended and enjoyed trying the dish of the week that Dawn had prepared and cooked. The families re-created the recipe from scratch to take home to cook and share with the rest of the family. During the 6 weeks they made Fruit Crumble & Fruit Kebabs, Soup & Bread Rolls, Falafels with Couscous Salad, Pizza Wheels, Turkey Bon-Bons ending with Scones & Cupcakes. At the end of the 6 weeks each family was given a Recipe book to take home.



This is what some of our course attendees said:-

"Really enjoyed it, it gave me time to do something different with my youngest without my older two taking over. I learnt new things & ideas."

"Love the Recipe book, thank you. A great keepsake and will use it with my daughter to continue with our cooking together".

BHBF-School Readiness

We ran School Readiness training in January & June at Rucstall Community Centre, this was the first time that School Readiness has been held outside of a school environment. Both courses were well attended and the same feedback was received from Families on both courses that it was good to know that they weren't the only ones anxious about their children starting school! Midway through the Summer course, one of the children's preschool reported an improvement in his social & language skills.

Future BHBF training is planned for later this autumn – dates TBC.



What we may see on our way to School!

Families Summer Outing 10th July 2019!

The Summer Outing this year was held at 4 Kingdoms in Newbury on the 10th July 2018 with over 20 families joining us for a fun day out:-



Blove Festival 6th & 7th July 2019

We were invited by Basingstoke & Deane to the Blove Festival held at the War Memorial Park. It was a great opportunity to network with other organisations and raise our awareness in the community. We ran an activity craft stall on both days which attracted lots of families who had never heard of HSNWH and we even got our photo in the local newspaper!



Bethan & her daughter Seren were "papped" by the Gazette!

AGM – 19th July 2019

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM it was lovely to see so many friends of HSNWH come along to support the work we do, including the Mayor of Basingstoke Cllr. Diane Taylor and her consort Mr. Andy Taylor.



HSNWH staff team with the Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane Cllr. Diane Taylor

Video case studies were shown for the first time at the AGM demonstrating two families' journeys of the support they have received from HSNWH and how they now feel. Feedback from attendees after the session was amazing they all felt the videos were very powerful and a great way of presenting the work we do and showing the impact we make to families. For those who had little knowledge of our service it highlighted the different types of support we offer.

At the end of the AGM Stephen Hill & Peter Anderson from Caversham Masonic Lodge presented HSNWH with a £500 cheque. Janette-Chair to the trustees thanked all members of Caversham Masonic Lodge for their generous donation.



Janette, Peter Anderson & Stephen Hill



A very special Thank You to Tracey Taylor & Jennie Gardner from Basingstoke & Deane who have and continue to be great supporters of our service'

Thanks

Summer Activities 2019

So this year not only did we attend Playday events on the 8th August 2019 at Westside Community Centre & The Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere we took up the opportunity of funding from Basingstoke & Deane to host our very first Playdays here at Rucstall Community Centre on the 7th August which was a huge success. During the day, we saw over 200 people come through the doors and fed over 100 children with homemade pizza & fruit kebabs. Our activities included a circus skills workshop, natural crafts-making owls from fir cones, lots of outdoor games, story & Rhyme time throughout the day, indoor crafts, playdough and messy play and a tattoo table run by Little Ducklings Nursery.



Natural Craft Stall



Amazing Owls

Throughout the Summer holidays we worked in partnership with Westside Community Centre to deliver play activities once a week and hosted a pond dipping event during "Love your Parks week in partnership with BDBC. All the activities were well attended by our families.

Fundraising

Raising funding for our core work is still a challenge and we are always very grateful for donations. Fundraising events are key in helping us raise unrestricted funding. In June we held a fundraising Ramble on the Earl of Malmesbury Estate which was a great success raising £504. On the same weekend our Wine/Water stall was again very popular at the Family Rotary Day raising £254. Both amazing amounts of funding that will be used to support families!

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at both these fundraisers – we really could not do this without you!

Introducing our latest cohort of HSNWH Volunteers



WELCOME!

Left to right: Katie Lloyd, Helene Hall, Libby Ruth, Jessica Jones & Toni Allen

Save the Date:-

21st November 2019 – Volunteer Celebration Evening – invites to follow shortly.

19th December 2019 – Jingle & Mingle

Dates for your diary:-

Volunteer Drop-in – Tuesday 8th October 2019 between 12pm-1:30pm

Fundraising Events:-

Quiz Night – Saturday 16th November 2019

Tesco Collection – Friday 13th December 2019

Number Crunching

37

Active home visiting/Group volunteers

220

Children supported since 1st April 2019-30th September 2019

60

Requests for support received since 1st April 2019-30th September 2019