

Newsletter: Home-Start North West Hampshire, Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3QN. Tel: 01256 325793  
Company No.: 5604443, Registered Charity no. 1112233

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## Community Newsletter....

### Welcome to our October Edition



## Volunteer Awards Celebration – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

We wanted to make our first face-face Volunteer Awards Event post covid special and were fortunate to source the perfect venue through Ann Burchett-Events Co-ordinator at Milestone's Museum. Ann offered us the use of the Vintage Tea Tent within the Museum itself. This was an amazing and quirky venue in which to hold this year's Volunteer Celebrations.

Patron James Malmesbury presented certificates to newly trained volunteers and long service awards. "The Judith Darmady" Volunteer of the Year award was this year presented to Jan Allen.

A 30 minute surprise Art Workshop led by Simon from Armadillo Art gave everyone a chance to develop their art skills even for those who were complete beginners. This was then followed by tea, cake and lots of chat 😊



*For Volunteers who were unable to make the Celebration, Certificates and Appreciation Cards were delivered personally. Photo above- Sophie Evans opening her 'special delivery'*



*Pictured on the Left Jan Allen –Volunteer of the year 2021/22 with Patron James Malmesbury*



## AGM 2021/22

HSNWH Annual General Meeting took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. The meeting was well attended by friends of HSNWH, HSNWH Volunteers, Cllr Paul Miller Mayor & Sandra Miller Mayoress of Basingstoke & Deane and the CEO of HSUK Peter Griggs.

Janette Hewitt- Chair of HSNWH opened the Meeting, below are highlights from her address:-

- HSNWH worked with 250 families in 2021/22, a huge increase in the previous year which resulted in a new member of staff being appointed to cope with the demand. Due to the looming cost of living crisis it is expected that demand this year for HSNWH Services may exceed last years numbers.
- Funding continues to be a challenge especially when applying for Core Costs and due to Covid were unable to run any Fundraising Events.
- There are currently vacancies for 3 Trustees to join the Board. Please contact the office if interested.



**Photo of above – Left to right:-  
Paul & Sandra Miller, Mayor & Mayoress of Basingstoke  
& Deane, Jools Anderson-Director of Operations,  
Janette Hewitt-chair, Peter Griggs- CEO HSUK**

In her update Jools Anderson – Director of Operations thanked the Trustee Board for supporting the start in January 2022 of a much needed rural Parent and Toddler Group in Bishops Green.

Jools went on to say that one of the achievements of 2021/22 was Young Parents Group which began in May 2021 and quickly become a phenomenal success, moving to a larger venue in September 2021 to cater for the growing numbers attending. The Group benefits from monthly visitors from

the Community including BCOT who have provided information to young parents on how to keep up their education.

Jools introduced Volunteer Nicola James who very kindly agreed to talk about her Volunteer journey.

Nicola joined HSNWH during Covid and did her Volunteer training via Zoom, she said that although the course was virtual she still felt engaged with staff and bonded well with other new volunteers. In the year and half that she has been volunteering Nicola has worked with 5 families as a home-visiting Volunteer and supported ad hoc in different Groups. Nicola ended by saying she feels honoured every time she is asked to work with a new family.

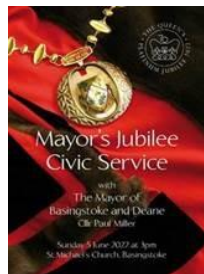
Before playing a video of a family's Home-Start journey, Jools confirmed that in the AGM pack there was a transcript she had produced of Joyce's story as English is not the family's first language.

At the end of the video Jools explained that during filming Joyce had been asked questions by a co-ordinator. The answers that Joyce gave show that her story encompasses HSNWH ethos that families are not ours to fix but we are here to enable and empower parents.

During AOB's a cheque for £1,483.45 was presented to HSNWH by Alan Attridge on behalf of Basingstoke Rotary. The money was raised from their Race Night fundraiser held earlier in the year. (See Photo below)



The Meeting ended with everyone invited to stay for tea, cake and a chance to meet Peter Griggs CEO of HSUK.



## Mayor's Jubilee Civic Service

We were honoured to receive an invitation to read one of the Community Pledges at the Mayor's Civic Jubilee Service in June at St. Michael's Church. The Service welcomed the new Mayor Cllr Paul Miller at the start of his year.



Janette Hewitt – Chair pictured above reading the First Community Pledge.

## Staff Update

We bid farewell to Group Co-ordinator Dawn Lyon in May and welcomed Em Cater to the Staff Team in June.



Em has been volunteering with Home-Start for a number of years as well as being a sessional worker in Wellbeing and Multiple birth group pre-covid. Em has recently been studying the level 3 Children and Young persons workforce qualification whilst working at a nursery.



## Groups Update

All Groups stopped during the Summer, however, families were invited to attend one of the following Activities over the holidays which were well attended:-

- Teddy Bears Picnic at War Memorial Park
- Nature Walk at Rooksdown
- Messy Play/Art Session at War Memorial Park
- Sports Day at Brighton Hill Park

In addition families also had the opportunity of attending the weekly Oaks & Acorns Community Café, here at Rucstall Community Centre which remains open during the holidays apart from the 2 week Christmas break in December.

## Volunteer Update

Over the Summer due to life changes we said farewell to some of our long-term and newer Volunteers. We are always sad to say Goodbye but very much appreciate however long a Volunteer's journey with Home-Start is, the time given up to work with families home-visiting and supporting within Groups/Courses.

We look forward to welcoming five new Volunteers to the Home-Start family who are due to finish Volunteer training at the end of October 2022 😊



**Photo above**  
**Volunteer Training Course**  
**– Oct 22 Left to Right –**  
**Erika & Claire enjoying a**  
**practical listening activity.**



**Photo above**  
**Volunteer Drop-In**  
**Sept 22**  
**Gabardine Bar**



Are you interested in a volunteer role with us? Our next Course is due to start **January 2023** -Come & join our team of Volunteers. We are looking for:-

- Home Visiting volunteers
- Family Group helpers
- Trustees
- Fundraising Volunteers

## BECAUSE CHILDHOOD CAN'T WAIT!



## Fundraising Update

Thank you to everyone who has raised money, supported and helped at the following events:-

**Ramble** – held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022 on the Greywell Estate by kind permission from James & Sally Malmesbury raising £714.75

**Cocktails & Canapes Evening** – held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The event was hosted by the Gabardine Bar who in addition sourced donations for the Canapes and Prosecco for the 'special Home-start Cocktails which all helped raise an amazing £1,423.72. A massive Thank You to the owners and staff team who worked really hard on the night. Special lighting was also sourced to light the Bar up with the Home-Start colours!



Above Gabardine Staff Team with HSNWH staff Team.



**Call My Bluff – Wine Tasting with a Difference** – held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 @ Heath End. A big Thank you to the Heath End Village Hall for the venue.



Jeffrey – one of the 3 Wine Bluffers!

A special Thank You to Trustee Mark Flower who raised £750 through competing in the Brittany Cycle Challenge in May 😊

Money raised through fundraising is invaluable as it allows us to continue our work in the community supporting families with young children to access our services.

Another great way to raise money is through Easy Fundraising! Whenever you buy anything online you could raise a free donation for Home-Start North West Hampshire. It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- 1. Join** - Go to the following website link :- <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/homestartnwhampshire2> and sign up for free.
- 2. Shop** - Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- 3. Raise** - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

## Save the Date:-

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Volunteer Celebration Evening

Dates for your diary:-

**Volunteer Drop In - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
11-12pm @Rucstall Community Centre**

## Number Crunching

40

Active home Visiting/Group Volunteers at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

243

Children supported since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022-30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

69

Requests for Home-Start services received since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022-30<sup>th</sup> September 2022