

Newsletter: Home-Start North West Hampshire, Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3QN. Tel: 01256 325793
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Welcome to our Summer Edition!



VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Celebrating our Volunteers at this year's Annual Awards on Wednesday the 7th June 2023 held at the Roger Morris Centre, Basingstoke: -



Left to Right-Jessie Davies, Jan Allen, Carol Ash, Jo Weineck & Sophie Davy



Quiz Time!



Long Service Awards presented to:-
Left to Right – Carol Ash, Nicola James, Ann Anderson, Vanessa Bearne & Jan Allen

The evening kicked off with a HSNWH Quiz which included a 'Guess the Baby' - photos kindly sent in from the Staff Team! Quiz packs can be emailed out to anyone who missed out and would like to have a go at guessing 😊! Before the buffet was served Long Service awards were presented by Jools and last year's recipient Jan Allen presented the Judith Darmady Volunteer award to Carol Ash.



Carol Ash – pictured left, has volunteered with HSNWH since 2018 and has supported families both 1:1 and within groups. Carol was chosen for the Judith Darmady Volunteer Award this year because of her consistency, determination and commitment in her role as a volunteer.

Carol is gentle and nurturing with all families she spends time with. Her ability to listen without judgement and support parents in their decision making enables them to confidently make positive changes. It was an honour to recognise Carol for this award on behalf of the HSNWH staff team and the families she has come into contact with. Thank you Carol!

Claire & Bethan – Home-Visiting Volunteer Co-ordinators

Volunteer Forum/Drop-In

We are always striving to improve the service we offer to our families and as a valued Volunteer we would love to hear your thoughts/ideas at our Forum/Drop-in on Thursday 7th September 2023 in the Community Room at Morrisons between 12:30pm-2pm. Alternatively, just come along for a chat and cuppa with fellow volunteers 😊

FAMILY GROUP UPDATE

We have spent the last few weeks, reviewing our group provisions to respond to what families have told us they need and from September our Groups Schedule will change as follows:-

Mums Club will no longer run on a Wednesday morning, in its place we will be running **"Mumming Aint Easy"** on a Monday afternoon— a group for mums/female carers for children under 5 to come together, share tips and ideas and focus parenting.

On Wednesday mornings **"Babies & Beyond"** will provide a space for new parents to meet other new parents and have access to a range of invited professionals to learn about services that may benefit their family. The partner agencies will vary which weeks they attend so please check if you have a family interested in a specific topic. At the moment confirmed partners include breast-feeding support, Hamptons Trust, Barnardo's Community Health, a reusable nappy library, and a volunteer qualified health visitor. We are thrilled to be able to offer baby weighing sessions within this group on weeks facilitated by the qualified health visitor who is **volunteering** her time to Home-Start to offer this service and as such has **NO ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS**.

Also, on a Wednesday mornings **"Little Wellies"** will be providing an opportunity for parents with confident walkers under the age of 5 to spend time in a community garden and learn about nature and outdoor activities.

Young Parents & Multiple Birth Group day and times stay the same except that Multiple Birth will now be led by a small group of regular volunteers.

Well-Being will still run but has moved to Thursdays from 9:30am-10:45am

Stay & Play Session will no longer run.

Jools Anderson – Director of Operations.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

This year's 'Preparing for School' started with a 5 week Community course held at Carnival hall straight after the May half-term. The course was open to all families with a child starting school in September. The remainder of the programme ran in the latter half of the Summer Term over 6 weeks in Castle Hill Primary, Winklebury Infants, Kingsclere Primary & Rucstall primary schools. Some of the schools feedback before the end of the course commenting on how invaluable 'Preparing for School' had been and could already see during a year R taster day the difference from the children on the course to those who didn't take up the opportunity. Below is just some of the feedback from Parents at the end of the 6 week course:-

"Really good class with some lovely resources, wasn't expecting to take them home. It was a good way for me to see first-hand how my son would deal with certain situations at School. It was also really useful to be at the school he will be attending in September to get him used to coming, Thank you."

"I found this group very helpful, [my child] has loved being here and as a parent I have learnt a lot myself. I would highly recommend this group to everyone. We found [my child] being in his new surroundings also helpful so he now enjoys coming, knowing this his new school."



Are you interested in a volunteer role with us? Our next 6-week Course is due to on Friday 13th October 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!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's meeting was held on Friday 17th July 2023. We were pleased to be joined by the Mayor & Mayoress of Basingstoke, volunteers, friends of HSNWH and new friends who came along to find out more about us. The second half of the AGM focused on the differences that Home-start services has made to families in the last year, ending with Guest speakers Volunteer Shirley & Service User Emily sharing their Home-Start journeys.



Left to Right:-

Service user – Emily with 1 year old Saxon who totally “stole the show” making everyone smile! Mayoress Amanda Leeks & Mayor David Leeks of Basingstoke & Deane!

Thank you Emily for sharing your journey through a Q&A session.

Both the AGM & Report are a great way of raising HSNWH awareness; we were totally blown away to receive a phone call from one of our volunteers to say, she loved the Report and forwarded it to the Rotary Club of Hook & Odiham. Who, after reading the Report, decided they would like to support us by donating £500 towards our service!

THANKS TO:-

We were thrilled to be asked to join the monthly community coffee morning at Ramsdell's new Village Hall. Sue Bailey, a long time supporter of Home-Start and new Trustee, was hosting April's event and kindly chose us as the beneficiary of the donations raised from the sale of drinks and cakes.

The amount raised from the small community get together was an impressive £70, which will be used to continue our work with families and volunteers.



If you know of community fundraising opportunities that we could be nominated for we would always be happy to provide literature about our charity and in many cases if appropriate send a member of staff or representative to answer questions and thank the community members in person.

STAFF NEWS...

I never in my wildest dreams imagined that I would come into work on a cold, grey Wednesday morning in February, to find an email from the Lord Chamberlaines Office, inviting me to the Kings “Coronation” Royal Garden Party in May. I was totally overwhelmed and absolutely convinced they had made a mistake, but I slowly took in Jools saying she had nominated me.

I felt very honoured, excited, but also a bit scared, I mean what if I got to curtsy to the King, what would I say, but more importantly what do I wear! Sadly, we didn't get to meet the King, we stood at the wrong end of the massive line up, however, he waved at us, and I am sure his wave was directed purely at me 😊!

The whole event was truly magical and a bit surreal, the thrill of walking through the Palace gates that we'd only ever peered through was just awesome. The afternoon tea, which by the way you could queue up for again and again, was just as you would expect, absolutely yummy, we did have rather a lot of cake! Below are just a few photos from the day and yes I smiled the whole time I wrote this!



Thank you Home-Start for nominating me.

Anna Chiappetta – Office Manager

***Trustee Sue Bailey
@Ramsdell's new
Village Hall***

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP-Volunteer Days

Foresters Financial Company

There is a lot of preparation work involved before the start of Preparing for School Programme and this year we were very grateful to our Corporate Partner Foresters Financial Company, whose members led by Charlotte Powell volunteered to come into the office on Saturday 27th May 2023 and made up approx. 200 packs. The children got to take home a pack at the end of each weekly session.

All Resources were kindly donated by Foresters!



Berry Bros & Rudd

A big Thank You to Jodie and Corinne from Berry Bros & Rudd, another of our Corporate Partners, who both took up the volunteering opportunity to support 'Preparing for School' in Winklebury Infants & Castle Hill Schools. We have a photo of Jodie on the last but sadly missed taking a photo of Corrine!



Jodie pictured outside Winklebury Infants



Ben & Louisa after the Garden Make-Over!

A Big Thank You also to Ben & Louisa who chose as their volunteering opportunity to undertake a 'Garden Make-over' for one of our families. They transformed a garden outdoor space which was unusable, the children now have an area they can safely play in outside the home 😊!

TRUSTEE UPDATE



Welcoming new Trustee Dr. Amanda Britton to the Home-Start Team!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

HSNWH present "A Night at the Races" on Friday 29th September 2023 @Carnival Hall, Basingstoke. Doors open 7pm-Races start promptly at 7:30pm. Finger Buffet included in ticket price of £12 per head. –

Contact the office on 01256-325793/email info@homestart-nwhampshire to book your ticket(s) or to find out more about owning a Horse! For £5 you get to choose the name and if your horse wins the Race, you get a Prize!

Basingstoke Half-Marathon -Sunday 1st October 2023. We are thrilled that one of our Volunteers has organised a team of runners for the Half-Marathon who are all raising money for Home-Start NWH 😊!

Save the Date:-

Thursday 7th September 2023 – Fundraising Meeting from 10:30am-12pm @Rucstall Community Centre.

Dates for your diary:-

Friday 29th September 2023 - HSNWH present A Night at the Races! (Tickets now on Sale)

Number Crunching

57

Active home Visiting/Group Volunteers - 1st April 2023- 31st July 2023

259

Children supported since 1st April 2023- 31st July 2023

37

Requests for support received since 1st April 2023-31st July 2023