

Home-Start North

Dorset

Spring

2014

Newsletter

Home  
START

Support and friendship  
for families



### Help Needed

We need volunteers who would be willing to offer their time to organise and support further fund raising events. If anyone would be interested in helping please contact Jamie Keast or Ruth Berry at the office .

### First Aid and Learning Through Play Courses

Two First Aid for Infants courses and Learning through Play session, that was led by Trustee Claire Macdonald, have recently been attended by some volunteers, Mums and children that are being supported by our home-visiting volunteers.

### Climate Change Talk

In June last year Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti CB, gave an illustrated talk at the Tithe Barn at Hinton St Mary called 'A changing climate; what it means for you.' It was an illuminating talk that examined the global implications and potential for conflict as a result of the impact on material resources.

### Free Quilt from Project Linus UK and the North Dorset Quilters

In July last year we took delivery of lots of lovely quilts/play mats that were donated from Project Linus UK whose motto is,

'A quilt is a hug you keep'.

They are all handmade with love for babies and children. Home-Start North Dorset volunteers were invited to come in to the office to collect quilts. A Trustee was invited to speak at a meeting of the North Dorset Quilters who have since provided a further batch of the lovely quilts for new families.



## Families

We have had such encouraging, supportive feedback from the families that our Volunteers have supported. One Mum summed it up when she said:

At first I thought I would like to do my own thing once a week when my volunteer visited but this changed. It's just lovely to have someone to sit down with, have a cup of tea and a natter and a bit of a moan about any difficulties that have cropped up and know I'm not being judged. It's helped me so much.'

What other Mums have said about the weekly home visits and their Volunteer:

"You are my saving grace."

"I have started to enjoy being a mum again."

"We are all much happier than we were before"

"It was just fantastic to have another pair of hands."

## New Volunteers

Our fourth preparation course for 13 volunteers finished in December 2013. This brings the total number of home-visiting volunteers to 38 who are now supporting families across North Dorset.

Well done ladies and continued thanks to our other 25 amazing volunteers! A further course is expected to take place in September 2014. The course runs one day a week for 10 weeks. Organiser, Jamie Keast leads the sessions and invites speakers from various organisations including Credit Union, Gillingham Food Bank, Children's Services, Family Information Service and Health Visitors to attend. All Volunteers have the opportunity to have their work accredited and to date four have done so.



## Burns' Night Fundraiser

We began the year with a celebration; a Burns' Night Supper at The Three Elms North Wootton. Owner Sue Barker kindly allowed the use of her premises and local Chef, Louise Dutton donated her time cooking a delicious traditional supper for over forty guests. The Haggis was piped in by Andrew Graham and addressed in true Scottish fashion by Fraser Wilson. During the evening guests enjoyed some traditional Scottish tunes and participated in a Lucky Draw. Many of the prizes were generously donated by local businesses. The evening raised a most welcome £1,000.00 which will go towards paying volunteers' travel costs.





**Rob & Ruth**

## **Chief Exec Visits North Dorset**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> January Rob Parkinson, the new Chief Executive of Home-Start UK, met with the Trustees and Staff at our office at the Exchange, Sturminster Newton.

Rob took up his new appointment in September 2013. Previously he was chief executive for Action Homeless.

He expressed his appreciation of the difficulties rural families face; isolation, hidden poverty, limited facilities, inaccessibility of support services, and praised the support Home-Start schemes offers in areas like North Dorset.

### **Future Fundraising Events**

Open Gardens at the Manor House, Blandford St Mary on Bank Holiday

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Trekfest in The Peaks - 27 miles in 12 hours on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Please contact the office for further information on any of these events.

**Don't forget to support us by online shopping via:**

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) at no cost to yourself.

**Or sign up to become a Friend of Home-Start North Dorset:**

[home-start-northdorset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Leaflet-PDF.pdf](http://home-start-northdorset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Leaflet-PDF.pdf)

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**Check out the website:**

[www.home-start-northdorset.co.uk](http://www.home-start-northdorset.co.uk)

## Josie, Jenny & Jenny



## Fundraising from Stock Gaylard

We received a cheque for £1,000 from Andrew and Josie Langmead at Stock Gaylard from donations to the Sculpture Exhibition and tickets for the Sunday concerts at St Barnabus Church. Jenny Kretz, Chairwoman of the trustees of Home-Start North Dorset, said: "We all enjoyed the experience and it was a delight to be in such beautiful surroundings for a week of glorious summer weather."

## Support from Local Community Continues

Austin & Hope Pilkington, Blackmore Vale Lions, Blandford Town Council, Bramleys, Child Okeford Centre for Care and Learning, Dorset County Council, Esmee Fairbairn Trust, FOHSND, Gillingham Town Council, Jigsaw Befriending Scheme, Claire Milne Trust, St Nicholas Wives Group, North Dorset Quilters, PCC Hinton St Mary, PCC Shroton St Mary, Samuel Storey Family Charitable Trust, Simon Digby Charitable Trust, Spectrum Housing, Spetisbury Festival, Stock Gaylard, Tesco Charity Trust, The Monument Trust, Trees Roger Brookes Trust, Pitt-Rivers Charitable Trust, The Wates Foundation, The Woodward Trust and a number of anonymous funders. **THANK YOU!**

## AGM 2013

Organiser Jamie Keast reported at the AGM that over the past 18 months 113 families have been referred for support and over 800 visits have been made to families living in North Dorset. Chair of Trustees, Jenny Kretz, said how delighted she and her fellow Trustees were at the progress and expansion of the scheme over the last twelve months. Jenny gave special thanks to 'the loyal and passionate group of volunteers' and to 'our numerous supporters in the community who have been so generous with financial assistance.' The meeting concluded with two presentations, one from a Mum who said of the volunteer who has supported her family,

**'She's completely changed our lives, I can't imagine where we'd have been without her; we'd have been in a very dark place.'**

And the other from a volunteer who said,

**'What a family often needs are people to have a bit of faith in them,'**

and that is just what Home-Start is all about, having faith that families can, with help and encouragement, turn their lives around.