



**The Friendship Project  
For Children**

**Newsletter Issue 7  
June 2008**

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Since the beginning of the year our new management structure, based on North and South Warwickshire, has been in operation. Lois Hamson is Coordinator in the North whilst Pauline Higginbottom has joined Helen James in managing the southern part of the county.

Group Supporters have been reintroduced into the Project to support the work of a small number of Older Friends. Geoff Vallis is a Group Supporter but has also agreed to take on responsibility for marketing and promotion of the Project.

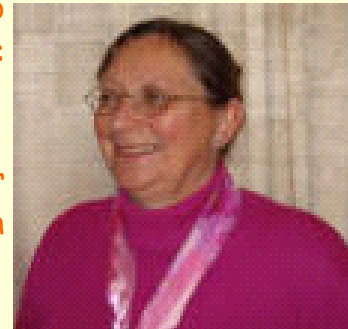
As always, thanks for your work and support of the Friendship Project.

**John Hancock, Chairman**

## **Welcome**

On behalf of the Friendship Project, I am delighted to welcome two new members to the Management team: Pauline Higginbottom and Jeff Vallis.

Pauline (pictured right) joins us as Coordinator for South Warwickshire and will be working with Helen James.



Jeff Vallis joins the Project as Marketing Coordinator and also Group Supporter. As Marketing Coordinator, Jeff will perform the important task of raising the profile of the Project to organisations and individuals throughout the Warwickshire area.



Also our heartiest congratulations to Helen James who recently became a Mum to baby Blake.

**Pete Aldersley,**

## Funders

**Our thanks to the following organisations and individuals who have generously donated funds to the Friendship Project during 2007 and 2008.**

29th May Charitable Fund  
Alan Higgs Charity  
Austin Edwards Charitable Trust  
Children in Need  
David Wright  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Henry Smith Charity  
Jarman Charitable Trust  
John Hancock  
Kenilworth Lions Club  
Leamington Rotary Club  
Local Network Fund  
Noel Buxton Trust  
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council  
Sheldon Trust  
Southam Rotary Club  
Stoneleigh P.C.C.  
Stratford Town Trust  
Warwick Lions Club

3i Solihull  
Angela Gallagher Memorial Fund  
Bewley Charitable Trust  
Coventry Building Society  
F.C. Stokes  
Heart of England Co-op  
Holly Ball Committee  
Joanies Trust  
John Vallis  
King Henry VIII Endowment Trust  
Lloyds TSB  
Mrs W. Godfrey-Payton Trust  
Norton Foundation  
Provincial Grand Lodge  
Southam Lions Club  
Southam Town Council  
Stratford Rotary Club  
TNT UK Ltd.  
Warwick Rotary Club

## Annual General Meeting

Members of the Project's Management Committee and some Older Friends gathered on June 14th for the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting took place at the Queen's Road Baptist Church in Coventry. The AGM is open to everyone connected with the Project and provides an excellent opportunity to get together and learn more about what others are doing within the Project.

Following news about the this year's progress, Chairman, John Hancock gave a very interesting talk on self esteem. He outlined many of the reasons for disadvantaged youngsters having low self esteem and that having an Older Friend could help them to feel more positively about themselves.

Lynne Balantyne gave a wonderful account of her Friendship and the very positive differences that it has made to her Younger Friend. *Ed.*

## Contact Details

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## Pete's Corner

I believe that 2008 is going to be one of the most successful years in the history of our project. During the year we have reconfigured the branches into North & South Warwickshire with Lois Hamson looking after the north of the county and Pauline Higginbottom and Helen James looking after the south of the county. These new areas have between them 33 ongoing friendships with another six in the process of matching. What is fantastic is that we also have another 30 volunteers being processed - if we can only convert these into friendships we will have a grand total of 63 children that we are helping change their lives for the better! It is still short of the 90 for the whole of Warwickshire that I hope to achieve by the end of the year but we are getting there!

Another achievement is that 38% of our Older Friends are now submitting a Report Form each month. These reports are essential so that we can monitor how a friendship is going and also to convince our funders that the project is a worthy cause. I would like to see 100% of our Older Friends reporting - please take the time to fill in the simple feedback form. This can be downloaded from our web site at [www.FriendshipProject.co.uk](http://www.FriendshipProject.co.uk) or ring 024 7636 2995 for a blank form.

While we are on the subject of reports please, please remember to fill in your name and branch at the top of the form and if claiming, the cash summary on the reverse. Without your name we cannot include your good work in our statistics and if claiming we cannot send you your cheque!!

**Pete Aldersley, Operation Manager**

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## Ed's Word

Welcome to Newsletter No 7, again a lot has happened within the Project since the last issue. It is a sure sign of it's success that the Friendship Project continues to evolve and make such a difference to the lives of vulnerable children.

Summer is here and I hope that you will see and experience lots of new things. If you find somewhere that you and your Younger Friend enjoyed visiting, let me know where you have been so that I can put it in the next Newsletter. For those of you who have access to the internet, there are lots of web sites for things to do in the local area.

**Sue Bourne, Editor**

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## Mary Hodkinson 1931 - 2008

It is with great sadness that I have to record the untimely passing of one of our Older Friends, Mary Hodkinson.

Mary joined the Atherstone branch of The Friendship Project in 2000, and had several successful friendships during her time with us. Her most recent Younger Friend is a young man who has benefited greatly from Mary's care and attention. Together, Mary and Norman, her husband, have encouraged their Younger Friend to take up new interests, including ballroom dancing, and over the 5 years they have been matched, he has developed into a confident young teenager.

Mary had a fall, and it seems that she never really recovered. She passed away at the end of February and it was testimony to her character and sense of community that her funeral was conducted as a Service of Celebration of her Life. Peter Aldersley and I attended on behalf of The Project and noted that the chapel was full to the back doors. Mary had touched many lives.

The Friendship Project was fortunate to have her as one of our volunteers for so long, and her contributions to the happiness and development of those she came into contact with will long be remembered and treasured.

***She will be sadly missed.***

**Lois Hamson, Coordinator, North Warwickshire**



## Judith Goodman

Since the last Newsletter Judith Goodman decided to step down as an Older Friend having served the Friendship Project for 18 years. During this time she befriended several needy youngsters and, latterly, a brother and sister being cared for by their Grandmother.

Judith put a great deal of thought into the activities that she organised for her Younger Friends. She was determined to provide them with the sort of outdoor activities which she had enjoyed as a child and which youngsters seldom experience today. Judith will be sadly missed as an Older Friend but, hopefully will continue her long association with the Project in some capacity.

## John Hancock

Finally a Summer groan ...

TEACHER:	Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'
GLENN:	K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'
TEACHER:	No, that's wrong
GLENN:	Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it!