



**The Friendship Project
For Children**

**Newsletter Issue 9
May 2009**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our management reorganisation is now complete with Lois Hamson responsible for managing friendships in North Warwickshire and Pauline Higginbottom in South Warwickshire. Group Supporters, responsible for supporting up to 5 Older Friends, have been recruited in both areas of the county but more are still needed. So far this year we have had more interest than usual from volunteers wishing to be Older Friends which is most encouraging. In the current financial climate we anticipate that fundraising will be more difficult but case studies and feedback on friendships always help our cause.

Thanks for your invaluable work.

John Hancock, Chairman



Things to do this Summer

Older Friends in the North of the County, might like to get a copy of **North Talk** issued by the NBBC, it gives details of activities at locations such as **Hartshill Hayes Country Park**, where there are lots of things to do. You can have a go at building a bird nesting box or go on a guided nature walk through the park. All are very reasonably priced if not free.

Also from NBBC, a **Passport to Leisure** will entitle you to reduced fees for using Council facilities, e.g. swimming.

Here are some more ideas for you to try. Tamworth **Snowdome** has some special deals in July. Sledging for £5, tobogganing for £6 per child. Tel 01287 308410 for information and booking.

Wacky Wood in Leamington Spa is very popular with Younger Friends. For money off vouchers for attractions in our area, visit www.visittheheart.co.uk

A.G.M. REMINDER

The Friendship Project Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.00 on Saturday, 16th May, 2009 at Queen's Road Baptist Church in Coventry.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet other Older Friends, Group Supporters and the Management Team

Come along and learn more about the Project: its achievements over the past 12 months and aims for the coming year.

There will be a talk on the subject of safeguarding children, led by representatives from Social Services.

The meeting is due to end at 12.00 and refreshments will be available.

Please make a note in your diary.

Funders

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

Alan Edward Higgs Charity	Planters Garden Centre
Angela Gallagher Memorial Fund	DHL Exel Europe
Austin Edwards Charity Trust	TNT (UK) Ltd.
Bewley Charitable Trust	Nuneaton & Bedworth Community Plan
Children in Need	Leamington Rotary Club
W.C.C. Community Development Fund	Southam Rotary Club
Coventry Building Society	Stratford Rotary Club
Four Acre Trust	Warwick Rotary Club
Garfield Weston Foundation	Rugby Borough Council
Heart of England Community Foundation	Sheldon Trust
Heart of England Co-op	Southam Town Council
Henry Smith Charity	Stratford Town Trust
Holly Ball Committee	Jarman Charitable Trust
ty-Ninth May 1961 Charitable Fund	Joanies Trust
U.I.A. Charitable Fund	Warwick Town Council
King Henry VIII Endowed Trust	Yapp Charitable Fund
Kenilworth Lions Club	Sir Adrian Cadbury
Nuneaton Lions Club	Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Ashow
Southam Lions Club	F.C. Stokes Charitable Trust
Warwick Lions Club	M. & H. Plastics
Wellesbourne Ladies Lions Club	Stoneleigh P.C.C.
Lloyds TSB	3i
Local Network Fund	David Wright
Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire	John Vallis
Mrs. W. Godfrey-Payton Trust	John Hancock
Noel Buxton Trust	Charan Health & Beauty Ltd.
Norton Foundation	Lydia Turner

Twen-

PANTOMIME TIME

BEDWORTH CIVIC HALL

Jack and the Beanstalk

7th—30th Dec 2009

Box Office: Tel: 024 7637 6707

COVENTRY BELGRADE THEATRE

Beauty and the Beast

1st Dec '09—9th Jan '10

Box Office 024 7655 3055

ROYAL SPA CENTRE, LEAMINGTON

Jack and the Beanstalk

12th Dec '09—2nd Jan '10

Box Office 01926 334418

Contact Details

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A Tommy Cooper classic—just like that!

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

Pete's Corner

Following the tragic death of Baby P last autumn I decided to check to see that all our procedures were to use a government phrase - 'fit for purpose'. As a result many of our documents have now been reviewed but the one that impacts most on Older Friends is the revision of the Projects Guidelines. With the help of the Area Coordinators and the Project Administrator I have now done a root and branch rewrite of this 28 page tome and I would like to express my thanks to them for all the hard work that they have put in. All of our existing Older Friends will shortly be getting a copy of these revised guidelines and it is important that you all read them carefully and understand how we as a project operate and what our policies are. If there is anything that is not clear please do not hesitate to contact either your Area Coordinator or myself.

On a lighter note I know that Christmas must seem a long time ago but the memory of our party held at the Queens Road Baptist Church in Coventry is still high in my list of happy memories of 2008 - but then perhaps being in the presence of Father Christmas himself has imprinted itself on my mind!



Pete Aldersley, Operation Manager

peter@friendshipproject.co.uk

SPECIAL RATES FOR OLDER AND YOUNGER FRIENDS AT LAKESIDE SUPERBOWL, NUNEATON

We have been offered special rates to take our Younger Friends to the Lakeside Superbowl in Nuneaton, which you might like to take advantage of.

SPECIAL RATES FOR FRIENDSHIP PROJECT:

Availability: Anytime **APART FROM** Friday and Saturday evening between 6.p.m and close.

Special rate: 1 game per person £2.50 (normal Junior rate £4.75)

2 games per person £4.00 (normal Junior rate £8.50)

Eligibility: Please ask for 'Friendship Project Rate' at reception and proof of identity must be shown (copy of special letters available from your Area Coordinator)

Throughout the week there are also other offers available which may work out slightly cheaper i.e. Saturday and Sunday morning between 10 am and 12 noon @ £2 per person per game so check on website www.lakeside-superbowl.co.uk for details.

Please take advantage of this offer, but we would ask that you do not abuse this facility and use for Younger Friends' outings only. Please contact your Area Coordinator to obtain a copy of the 'Letter of Identity' required.

PLANTASIA AT DOBBIES

Plantasia are offering reduced admission for Younger Friends.

Older Friends are to bring a Letter of Authority with them when they visit and present it at reception upon entry. Plantasia will then let the Younger Friends in for a reduced admission of £3.00 (rather than £4.95) and the Older Friend would be able to go in free.

Please contact your Area Coordinator if you require another copy of the Letter of Authority.

50's/60's Night

It seems a long time since the cold November evening at St Giles' Church Hall in Exhall, when Phil King and the Royals played sounds from the 1950's and 60's. Many of the Older Friends who were shake, rattlin' and rollin' on the dance floor looked too young to remember that far back, but they certainly had a good time.

The band sang and played an amazing string of hits from the days when Rock 'n' Roll was young - from Elvis, Chubby Checker, Cliff and the Shadows and many others.



Phil King and the Royals

The band is very popular in Exhall, having played to a packed hall on several previous occasions for charity events. Dave, the drummer commented that it was a privilege to be back in Exhall and that there is always a great atmosphere. Guitarist Lol said that they were all particularly pleased to be helping to raise money for the Project. "Everybody does a great job to help these kids".

As reported in the Christmas issue, £470 was raised on the night and once again, thanks to all who put on their dancing shoes.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008

About 35 Younger Friends came to the Project Christmas Party in December, held at the Queens Road Baptist Church in Coventry. The children all enjoyed a delicious tea, followed by party games and a wonderful magic show by Older Friend and magician, Matthew Redman.



With children enjoying themselves, Older Friends chatted, had tea and home made cakes - a very tasty start to Seasonal festivities.

Santa Claus was able to make a special visit to see the Younger Friends and made sure that he had time to talk to each one of them in his grotto, before giving them each a Christmas present. Younger Friends also received a gift from the Project and as they left the party, Matthew made balloon models to take home too.

The party had been hastily planned, but was such a success that we are hoping to organise another one for Christmas 2009. Details will be circulated later.



*Older Friend Jeff Vallis
in Party mode!*