



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

SUMMER 2010

THE FRIENDSHIP PROJECT FOR CHILDREN

From the Chairman

2009 ended on a high note with 2 Christmas parties which were well attended by Older Friends and Younger Friends. I wish to record my thanks to the Operations Team for their dedicated and professional approach during the year

Sadly, Pauline Higginbottom is leaving the Project at the end of June. Pauline joined the Project in 2008 and was instrumental in starting up the Southam Branch. I would like to thank Pauline for her hard work and dedication during her time with us.

Finally, in 2011, the Friendship Project will celebrate 25 years of continued existence. We are keen to contact past Younger and Older Friends about their experiences with the Project.

Thanks to all members for your valuable work

John Hancock, Chairman

A.G.M. REMINDER

The Friendship Project Annual General Meeting will be held at Queen's Road Baptist Church in Coventry at 10.00 on Saturday 5th June.

The meeting is open to everyone connected with the Friendship Project. Please come along to meet Older Friends, Group Supporters and the Management Team

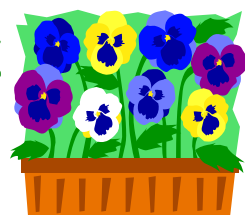
The meeting is due to end at 12.00 and refreshments will be available.

Please make a note in your diary to join in some lively discussion.

Plantasia at Dobbies

It has recently been confirmed that from 13th February 2010 the new concession rate for Younger Friends to enter Plantasia will be £3.95 (increased from £3.00) but the Older Friend will still be FREE.

Please note that Older Friends should ensure they show their Friendship Project ID cards at Reception to get this discount.



Funders

Our thanks to the following organisations and individuals who have donated money to the Friendship Project in 2009/10

Stratford Town Trust	Norton Foundation
North Warwickshire Community Fund	Nuneaton & Bedworth Community Plan
TNT Atherstone	Nuneaton Lions Club
Morgan Est	Sheldon Trust
Wellesbourne Lions	Waitrose (Kenilworth)
Costcutter (Warwick University)	Southam Lions Club
FC Stokes Charitable Trust	Southam Rotary Clubs
Church End Brewery	29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Polesworth W.I.	Warwick Town Council
Southam Town Council	Yapp Charitable Trust
Alan Edward Higgs Charity	Bewley Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation	Austin Edwards Charitable Trust
Heart of England Cooperative Society	Joanies Trust
Heart of England Community Foundation	Holly Ball Committee
Henry Smith Charity	John Vallis
Jarman Charitable Trust	John Hancock
King Henry VIII Endowed Trust	David Wright
Kenilworth Lions Club	Lydia Turner
Leamington Rotary Club	Lois Hamson
Mrs W Godfrey-Payton Trust	Roy Edwards Memorium
Coventry Building Society Charitable Trust	
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales	

Thank you.

The Project was delighted and grateful to receive a recent donation from the Church End Brewery, based in Ridge Lane, near Atherstone. The Brewery held a Traditional Pub Games Evening, which was well supported, and great fun was had by all. As a result, the proceeds from the evening amounting to £80 were kindly donated to our Project by Katie Eliot and her colleagues at the Tap Room.

Perhaps members of our Project can show their thanks, and mutual support by going along to some of the future events which the Brewery are planning, details of which can be found on their website www.Churchendbrewery.co.uk

Baby Congratulations!

Older Friend Rosie Parsons and husband Stephen became proud parents to bouncing new baby Archie in January. Congratulations from everyone with the Friendship Project.



WANTED

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE FRIENDSHIP PROJECT?
GROUP SUPPORTERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO SUPPORT FRIENDSHIPS IN THE RUGBY AREA**

CONTACT Lois hamson on 07879 682145 or email: lois@friendshipsproject.co.uk

Christmas 2009



Mr Magic, Matthew Redmond is seen here entertaining Younger Friends aged under 11 at the Project Christmas Party, held in December at Queens Road Baptist Church.

After enjoying a delicious party goody bag, Matt delighted his audience with a fabulous magic show, with lots of noisy audience participation. After leading party

games, Matt also made each Younger Friend a balloon sculpture whilst they anxiously waited to see Father Christmas who had flown in from the North Pole with a sack full of gifts for the Younger Friends.

Carrie-Ann Els, who has recently joined the Project as an Older Friend is a professional photographer and took a photograph for each child with Santa.

Our thanks go to Queens Road Baptist Church for the hire of the room for the Younger Friends' Party and to Atherstone Coop for providing the party food for the children, which were enjoyed by all.

Tenpin Bowling is very popular with many Younger and Older Friends and so before going back to school after the Christmas holiday, the over 11's with their Older Friends got together at Ten Pin in Walsgrave, Coventry. After two energetic games everybody was ready for a tasty meal of burgers and chips. Treasurer Chris Buck made high scores, but the star player was Younger Friend, Elliot, who was playing 2 lanes at the same time. Group Supporter, Lynne Ballantyne came to watch the fun with her wrist in plaster. We hope it's better.



Organising a party?

Would you like Matthew to entertain your guests?

For magical entertainment, contact Matthew at magicmoments_48@hotmail.com

Head for heights!

Older Friend Paul Lowing is planning to do a free fall parachute jump in August

If you would like to sponsor him please contact him

at paulowing@hotmail.co.uk

Pete's Corner

In the last issue of the newsletter I talked about statistics and applauded how the amount of children we are now supporting has grown over the last few months - at present it stands at 53 with another 11 in the process of being established. Obviously the more matches that we have the more it costs to maintain them. Our ongoing overheads are salaries that we pay to our key staff though these are way below their market value, insurance which is of course quite high as we are in a high risk business, and advertising to attract new volunteers and raise awareness of our project. Our other major expense is the monthly reimbursement payments to Older Friends for the cost of taking their Younger Friends out and any mileage this may incur.

The money for all of this comes from kind donations from individuals, organisations and companies and by our bidding into various funding pots like Children in Need and the Big Lottery Fund to name but two. Bidding into these requires much hard work by John Hancock, our chairman, and others. What they need most of all is evidence to submit to these bodies to demonstrate that we are making a difference to the lives of the children we support. In this respect you can help!

One of the requirements of being an Older Friend is that you were asked to complete a report each month outlining what activities you and your Younger Friend have done during the preceding month. This can then be used to support our bid - incidentally both Older Friends and Younger Friends names are removed before submission. Only 34% of Older Friends are at present sending in a report - you could assist the project in making successful bids by filling in this simple form. It can be downloaded from the projects web site at www.FriendshipProject.co.uk and following the link to FORMS or if preferred it can be sent to me by email (pete@FreindshipProject.co.uk) if you are not submitting an expense claim.

Another way that we provide evidence to funders of the good work that we are doing is by way of a sample audit. This asks your Younger Friend's carer a few simple questions about the effect that our project is having on their child. If the carer of the child that you are matched with receives such a form please assist them in filling it in and returning it to me in the SAE provided.

I will finish my column for this time with a big thank you to Pauline Higginbottom who has been our Area Coordinator in the south of the county for quite a while now. Pauline has been amazingly dedicated to the project and she will be a hard act to follow - I hope we will be able to find her a less demanding role within the project very shortly.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM in June

Pete Aldersley, Operations Manager

Well done Elliot.

Talented Younger Friend Elliot won First Prize in a painting competition recently.
He's not only a brilliant bowler but an artist too!