



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12

WINTER 2010

THE FRIENDSHIP PROJECT FOR CHILDREN

From the Chairman

It is with great sadness that I report that Carol Morton our successful Fundraiser, lost her long battle with cancer and died in Myton Hospice at the end of October. Carol had been a personal friend and colleague for many years and will be missed by her family, many friends and members of the Friendship Project.

Carol will be replaced by Alan Marshall who is a retired Management Accountant. Another significant change will occur in January when Lynne Ballantyne (Group Supporter and former Older Friend) will replace Lorraine Riley as our South Warwickshire Area Coordinator. We are grateful to Lorraine for her efforts, who has discovered that she cannot combine work for the Project with business interests. Pauline Higginbottom has kindly stepped into the breach during November and December.

Next year the Project will be celebrating its 25th anniversary but, in the meantime, I hope to see you at one of our Christmas parties.

Thanks for your valuable work in 2010.

John Hancock, Chairman



Record Donation

Bodies & Co, the Fitness Organisation, which offers a range of exercise classes in Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth and South Warwickshire, has recently donated £6,000 to the Project. The money was raised at a charity fashion extravaganza staged at the Spa Centre in Leamington Spa on the 4th and 5th November.

Our thanks to the organisers and everyone who attended the event held over the two evenings.

One giant leap ...

Thanks to Older Friend Paul Lowing, who raised a magnificent £137 for the Project by literally being blown away on June 23rd.

At 125 ft, Bodyflight Vertigo is one of the tallest 'power fan' jumps in the UK. It gives the thrill of leaping from a building and plunging to the ground in total safety. There is no need to be attached to a bungee cord or to use a parachute.

Well done Paul.



Funders

Our thanks to the following organisations and individuals who have donated money to the Friendship Project in 2010

TNT Atherstone	Morgan Est
Stratford Town Trust	North Warwickshire Community Development Fund
Wellesbourne Lions	Costcutter (Warwick University)
F.C. Stokes Charitable Trust	Coventry Building Society Charitable Foundation
Church End Brewery	Polesworth W.I.
Southam Town Council	BBC Children in Need
Warwick Lions	Kenilworth Lions
Southam Lions	Ammco Trust
Leamington Spa Rotary Club	Alan Edward Higgs Charity
Michael Marsh Charitable Trust	Norton Foundation
Paul Lowing (sponsored power fan jump)	Austin Edwards Charity
Sheldon Trust	King Henry VIII Endowed Trust
Bewley Charitable Trust	Noel Buxton Trust
Yapp Charitable Trust	Warwick Area Fund
Bodies & Co.	John Hancock (sponsored Walk)
Angela Gallagher Memorial Fund	Gold & Silver Investments (Atherstone)
	Recessionaires of Atherstone

Donations

The Friendship Project would like to thank Mr Alan Carter of Gold & Silver Investments of 38 Long Street, Atherstone, for his generous donation of £100 from his counter-top collection jar. The money was used toward the cost of the Christmas Party.

Thanks too, to the Costcutter Branch at Warwick University who donated £1,250 earlier this year. The Project had a thriving branch at the University in the 1990's

Death of former Chairman

David Wright was Chairman of the Project from 1992 - 95 following a career in personnel work. He took over from the Founder, Charles Raeburn, and assisted in the amalgamation of the Warwick, Stratford and Rugby Branches which initially had separate Management Committees.

Friends have had their chips!

An Older Friends writes:: The idea to do a Chip Shop Survey came from a magazine. The activity is always a hit; no exception with my YF. Adapt the format to suit. First we devised our own criteria 'what makes good fish and chips?': crispy batter, portion size, etc. We take picnic plates and visit 2 chip shops in one activity. At each outlet we share one portion and score it against our criteria. (We never told a proprietor what we were doing.) The activity has fun, novelty and I dare say educational elements.

Younger Friend: The Chip Shop Survey is great driving to different chip shops I have never heard of. I like it when we go to the 1st one and have half and do the same with the other shop (but I get full with the 2nd shop). I want to keep going until we have gone to all the chip shops in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Older Friend: After we have exhausted the supply of fish and chip shops we could try pizzas?

Where to go?

This is Emma, she is owned by Katie Peak, pictured here with Younger Friend Kaitlin. Emma lives at the Father's Heart Youth Ranch in Sheepy Magna, near Atherstone.

Emma is 21 years old and has a friend called Biscuit.

The Father's Heart is a charity and disadvantaged children are welcome to go and experience being with horses for free, though a donation toward the cost of carrots and feed would be appreciated. Katie produces a newsletter available to read on the website.



Many Younger Friends like horses, but usually riding lessons are very expensive and the Project cannot support Younger Friends taking regular riding lessons and so the generosity of Katie and the Father's Heart is most welcome.

Please visit the website www.fathersheartyouthranch.co.uk

RIDING AT THE FATHERS HEART RANCH BY CAITLIN

IT WAS FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I liked it and the first time I was a bit scared and at the end I didn't want to come off Emma. I liked getting her ready like grooming her, putting the saddle on and picking her feet for the first time. I like doing the horses food mix and cleaning the water.

When I went on Emma, Katy taught me to stop and go on Emma and at the end I got to clean the stables out and the field.

Katy taught me how to do around the world and then how to trot at the second time I went, and then to rise and trot but today Katy taught me how to thread the needle on Emma.

Kaitlin's Older Friends writes:

I have been with Caitlin three times to Katie's Ranch and have noticed how much more confident Caitlin has become. We really enjoy the car ride there as its all in the countryside and the Ranch is a beautiful peaceful place to be. The time goes so quick and we are so happy there. Katie is a marvellous instructress and communicates with so much patience and understanding.

Recessionary Generosity!

A group of Atherstone businessmen, calling themselves the Recessionaires has generously donated £250 toward the Christmas Party. The businessmen help local charitable causes, and after hearing about the Friendship Project from North Warwickshire Area Coordinator, Lois Hamson, one of the group, Mr Alan Carter, kindly offered their support, The money was used to pay for the party food for the children.

Many thanks Recessionaires!

Supermarket sweep!

Thanks to Nuneaton Asda who have kindly donated a box of crisps for the Christmas party and also to Bedworth Tesco store for their donation of £10.



Pete's Corner

This has been a hectic time for the Project. Our South Warwickshire Area Coordinator resigned at the beginning of October and the post is at present being covered by Pauline Higginbottom - this is until January. Lynne Ballentyne, who is at present on an intensive training course, will then take over. Hopefully things will quieten down for a while as it always difficult when a key player leaves.

The Project goes from strength to strength with us having at the time of writing nearly 70 friendships under way. However what I feel is important now is to concentrate on quality not quantity. With that in mind I am putting together a package of new measures in an attempt to ensure that we have good sustainable matches and that our volunteers are sure that our project is the one they truly want to be involved in.

Have a great and happy Christmas

Pete Aldersley (Operations Manager)



Letter from a Younger Friend

Dear Lois

Since I have known Linda, I've become a more happier girl. Also I have got on more with my mum and dad and I have been concentrating on my family more. I have also met some of Linda's family and they are really nice to me and they are really friendly.

And now I also know if you work hard and concentrate you will become a happy girl, because you will know what to do and you will also get higher marks.

Now I'm a happier girl me and my friends haven't fell out so much, and also have made new friends at my different school.

Since we knew Linda for two years, we have done load of things together, my favourite things are Drayton Manor, cinema, swimming, baking cakes, snakes and ladders, meeting people in Linda's family and also meeting Linda, Doug and Stanley and also William.

From Chantelle

Older Friend Linda writes:

When I first met Chantelle (over 2 years ago now, unbelievably!) my over-riding feeling was that she was an unhappy little girl. Her relationship with, in particular, her father wasn't good and she was having problems at school due to disagreements with her peers. Being the oldest of four children her mother had very little time to even consider what difficulties Chantelle might be experiencing.

We soon developed a rapport and I found Chantelle very easy to please—she was enjoying “one to one” possibly for the first time.

Chantelle had a few friends who were a bad influence but she is now part of a group of nice girls—those who aren't pushing the boundaries but just enjoy playing together. I receive regular updates on their activities.

Gradually, I believe she has seen that it is possible to have disagreements with friends and siblings which don't have to lead to fisticuffs. There are other ways to deal with differences of opinion and even accept that you disagree.

Chantelle has made the transition to Secondary School very well, even though one of her “best” friends now attends a different school. She has already received a very positive half term report which she was very proud to show me.

I think the involvement of the Project highlighted problems and made grandma aware so that Chantelle now spends more time with her and benefits from a quieter, calmer atmosphere when at her house.

Now, two years on, Chantelle has become a well-rounded, polite and pleasant young lady with real values—I believe the Project may take some credit for that.