

## Pete's Corner

This year has been a really good year for the project. Although the number of established friendships has dropped slightly I feel the quality of friendships is increasing tremendously. This is in part due to the volunteers that are coming forward but also due to us introducing Group Supporters. Group Supporters are allocated to up to five Older Friends and it is their responsibility to contact them at least bi-monthly to check on how the matching is going. This ensures that the problems outlined in the original referral from Social Services or the child's school are being addressed and that the Older Friend is happy with the match and that any problems arising can be ironed out as they occur. We have now introduced new checks following the well publicised Baby P case. These cover CRB issues regarding house occupancy where a Younger Friend is visiting the Older Friends home.

Helen James has now left the project as Warwick & Leamington Coordinator and Pauline Higginbottom has taken over the whole of South Warwickshire. This means that there are now only two Coordinators - Lois Hamson in the north of the county and Pauline in the south. As mentioned earlier, both Lois and Pauline are introducing more Group Supporters to spread their work load. If you would be interested in becoming a Group Supporter please contact them to register your interest. Full training will be given.

One of our longest standing Older Friends, Emma James, has now left the project to start a family. Emma has been OF to two girls for several years and we have received a wonderful letter from the girls mother saying how much it has helped the family over a very difficult period. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Emma for the years of dedicated work that she has put in with these girls and wish her all the best in the future.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2009.

**Pete Aldersley, Operation Manager**



It's a cracker!

- Q. What do you get if you cross an elephant with an albatross?  
A. Worried sailors!



## The Friendship Project for Children

Newsletter No 8  
Christmas Issue—December 2008

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Project is now more robust than at any time since I became Chairman in 2004. Our management structure, systems and procedures have been overhauled and, this year, we have raised more money than ever before, in spite of the current financial climate.

Sue Bourne has been appointed to a new post of Project Administrator whilst Helen James has moved to another job. We are grateful for her contribution as Warwick Coordinator. From December, Pauline Higginbottom will become Coordinator of South Warwickshire (Stratford, Southam and Warwick Districts) mirroring the management organisation in North Warwickshire.

I hope you can make our Christmas Party on 20th December. Thank you for your contribution.

**John Hancock, Chairman**



## MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join the fun at Queen's Road Baptist Church  
near Coventry City Centre

From 2 'til 4 pm on Saturday 20th December

## Funders

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 Comm'y Plan
Children in Need	Leamington Rotary Club
W.C.C. Community Dev't 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 Found'n	Sheldon Trust
Heart of England Co-op	Southam Town Council
Henry Smith Charity	Stratford Town Trust
Holly Ball Committee	Tudor Trust
Jarman Charitable Trust	Twenty-Ninth May 1961 Charitable Fund
Joanies Trust	U.I.A. Charitable Fund
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 Warwicks.	John Vallis
Mrs. W. Godfrey-Payton Trust	John Hancock
Noel Buxton Trust	
Norton Foundation	
	Charan Health & Beauty Ltd.

*Our thanks to all of these individuals and organisations who have generously donated funds to the Friendship Project.*

## Baby Congratulations

Pauline Higginbottom has become the proud Grandmother of Thomas, born on 5th November and weighing in at 7lb-5oz. Congratulations to all the family.



Emma James is now the proud Mum of baby Callum who was born in November weighing nearly 7lbs. Congratulations Emma and very best wishes for the future.

## Congratulations



*Miss Debra Hart married one of our Older Friends, Matthew Redmond at Markfield Church Markfield, Leicestershire on 16 August this year.*

*Matthew currently successfully supports 2 younger friends in Nuneaton (as you know!) as well as volunteering his time and skills for many of our special events, including the forthcoming Christmas Party to be held on the 20th December.*

## Farewell

Very best wishes for the future to Warwick and District Coordinator, Helen James, who is leaving the Project at the end of this year. Thanks Helen for all you have done for the Project and we wish you all the very best in your new job. Ed.

## 50's 60's Night

The main hall of St Giles' Church, Exhall was packed on November 30th as Phil King and the Royals took us back in time as they played many familiar sounds of the 1950's and 60's. Older Friends and music fans danced to hits from the Shadows, Elvis, Chubby Checker and many others.

A magnificent £470 was raised for the Friendship Project, thanks to everyone who came along.

Drummer for the band, Dave, said it was a privilege to be back in Exhall and especially for the Friendship Project.

*Pictures and more in the next issue. Ed.*