



**The Friendship Project
For Children**

**Newsletter Issue 10
December 2009**

From the Chairman

I was devastated by the news of our Treasurer's death in August and also of our Fundraiser, Carol Morton's serious illness. Thankfully, the Operations Team and others responded magnificently with offers of support, which helped me greatly. In addition, two new members have joined the Project as Trustees. I am pleased to announce that Carol has made good progress with her treatment and hopes to return to the Project by March.

As ever, thanks to our Older Friends for their valuable work and hope to see you at our Christmas Party.



John Hancock, Chairman

Two New Trustees

Chris Buck has agreed to become Treasurer, a role which he held for the Amnesty International Branch at Sheffield University, whilst he was a student there. He has gained further experience in his present job at Warwick University working for Warwick Ventures. Chris aims to revolutionise our accounting procedures and from January, accounts will be electronically maintained and payments made by direct transfer into OF's accounts.

Ian Balmer has been the Head of three Primary Schools: Weddington in Nuneaton, Sydenham in Leamington and Boughton Leigh in Rugby. Towards the end of his career, Ian worked for the Local Authority promoting extended services in schools which involved working with a range of agencies.

Both Chris and Ian should be tremendous assets to the Project



CONGRATULATIONS

Wedding Congratulations to Older Friend Vicki Callaghan, who married Richard Wingrove on August 1st this year. Best wishes for the future to Vicki and Richard from everyone with the Friendship Project.



Fundraising

Following our successful year in 2008, this year has proved more difficult, especially since Carols' absence through illness. I have been assisted by Bryan Hamson who has used his marketing background when approaching business organisations in North Warwickshire.

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

Stratford Town Trust	Nuneaton & Bedworth Community Fund
Garfield Weston Foundation	Alan Edward Higgs Charity
King Henry VIII Endowed Trust	Joanies Trust
Norton Foundation	Mrs Godfrey-Payton Trust
Bewley Charitable Trust	Yapp Charitable Trust
Wellesbourne Lions Club	Southam Lions Club
Southam Rotary Club	Kenilworth Lions Club
Leamington Spa Rotary Club	Southam Town Council
John Vallis	Lydia Turner
David Wright	John Hancock
Cheryll Rawbone	Sponsored Walk
Austin Edwards Charitable Trust	Gift Aid and Interest
Lloyds TSB Foundation	

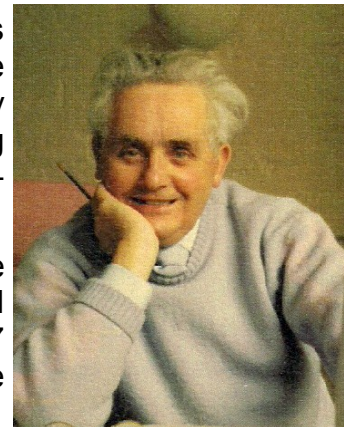
Roy Edwards 1926-2009

Roy was Treasurer of the Stratford branch when it was formed in 1992 and became overall Treasurer of the Friendship Project in 1999 when the Stratford and Rugby Branches combined with the Warwick Branch (including Warwick University) and new branches opened in Nuneaton/Bedworth and Atherstone.

Roy had impeccable credentials to be Treasurer as he was retired Account and Deputy Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance. He became Treasurer of 7 other charitable organisations including Warwickshire St John's Ambulance.

Roy was a remarkable man who never complained even though he had battled with major medical problems for years. In his younger and fitter days he played hockey, football and cricket and maintained a keen interest in sport in later life. He enjoyed watching cricket at Edgbaston and following the progress of Birmingham City.

Along with his wife Margaret, Roy was very much involved in church life in the Small Heath area where he grew up as a boy. He will be remembered with great fondness by Margaret, Michelle his daughter, 12 grandchildren and members of the Friendship Project.



Testimonial from an Older Friend in Rugby

As I am self-employed and have a few hours at my disposal every week, I wanted to do something useful and productive with that time, and I chanced upon an advertisement for the Friendship Project.

Very soon I was paired up with a young lad whom I saw weekly for several months. Whilst the lad and I got on very well, and he developed socially over the time I spent with him, sadly his mother didn't totally endorse this programme as she had many other pressures and turned out to be quite obstructive and awkward, severely limiting the time I could spend with him every week and quite often cancelling without notice at all. As this was a waste of everyone's resources and time, the friendship inevitably was terminated by mutual agreement, and the family were given support from another agency instead, concentrating more on supporting the parents.

I was then matched with a delightful young lady, then aged 6. This association is all we both wished for; I have visited for 15 months now, with the eager participation of her mother, thank goodness, and we get on really well, free & easy, nattering away just like friends do. I am really pleased that after the initial disappointment we were able to find the right mix of participants and I hope we shall have a relationship lasting years, until she eventually feels she doesn't need this arrangement any longer.

I would urge anyone of a kindly disposition to try this programme - it can bring a terrific feeling of satisfaction, and we all enjoy helping someone really.

June 2009

Pampered Chef

A tasty time was had recently by 17 ladies, including several of my Older Friends, when we gathered for a Pampered Chef Cookery Demonstration Evening held as a fundraiser for the Project.

We were treated to a demonstration using the range of products and then were able to sample the results, which were delicious. Lots of good ideas for Christmas recipes!

Everyone enjoyed the event, and the combined result of entry tickets, raffle and commission earned gave a wonderful total of £130 raised for the Project. It is hoped that this will go towards the Children's Christmas Party and I should like to thank all concerned for their generosity.

Thanks once again.

Lois Hamson, Area Coordinator, North Warwickshire

Project Identity cards

All Older Friends have been issued with Project ID cards during the year. If yours is damaged through wear and tear, please return it to me, at the address below, so that I can provide you with a new one.

Sue Bourne,
114 Deans Way, Ash Green, Coventry CV7 9HF

A Christmas cracker!

Q. What do you call a man who went to a fancy dress party as a sandwich?

A. Roland Buttern!



Pete's Corner

Statistics are often boring! But once in a while along come some figures that brighten your day. That is how I felt when I looked at the Projects' statistics for the end of October. We now have fifty-three active friendships plus eleven more in the matching stage. And there are another nine awaiting matching. So if all these 'come good' we will have a total of seventy-three friendships active in Warwickshire.

This is a fantastic achievement and my thanks go out, not only to the Older Friends who are making these friendships work, but to the Area Coordinators Lois and Pauline and our hard working Project Administrator, Sue who have worked so hard over the last few months to process the paperwork involved, carry out briefings at potential Older Friends homes, and have liaised with the various authorities to arrange these new friendships.

I know that our work is much appreciated by Social Services and the Head Teachers of schools who are always singing the praises of our project.

Keep up the good work - it doesn't go unnoticed!!

Pete Aldersley
Operations Manager



Where to go?

For reduced prices on admission to Warwick Castle, Blenheim Palace, Drayton Manor, Sea Life Centre in Birmingham and Alton Towers look at this website: www.shakespeare-country.co.uk

The Arts Council operate a scheme they have entitled "A Night Less Ordinary." This awards free theatre tickets to people under 26. (see: <http://www.anightlessordinary.org.uk/search/?lat=52.412289&lon=-1.508900&term=cv1&genre=>)

A search, for example, under postcode "CV1" (see link above) returns 17 different theatres in the surrounding area which are signed up to the scheme. In essence this means that our Older and Younger Friends aren't tied to travelling to just the Arts Centre which might be a bit far for some.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party for Younger Friends aged under 11, is on
5th December at Queen's Road Baptist Church, Coventry.

For Younger Friends aged over 11, there is Bowling on
2nd January 2010 at Tenpin, Crosspoint Business Park, Walsgrave

Ho ho ho Merry Christmas!!!!