

Silver Jubilee AGM



Trustees, Friends, Volunteers and supporters of Home-Start Uttlesford attended the Silver Jubilee AGM held in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden on September 24th - exactly 25 years on from the 1st AGM of our local Charity. After AGM formalities, Ruth Driver, one of the founders, cut a special cake before all present and we had a delicious lunch and an opportunity to reflect on the successes of a charity that has supported many young families during the past 25 years. A special souvenir booklet in words and pictures was given to everyone attending.

Silver Jubilee Quilt Raffle

The Silver Jubilee Quilt was displayed in Janet Riley's window in Saffron Walden in October. The raffle will be drawn on the 26th of November.



Thank You to the UDC Community Fund

We have been fortunate to be given a grant of £2000 from this year's Community Fund, from Uttlesford District Council. This year we have supported over 100 Mums, with children under 5, who are isolated in our pretty villages, can't get to shops and services easily, find themselves alone as parents or lack confidence to go out of their homes. Our volunteers visit regularly, usually weekly, and give support to them and their children. This money from the UDC will allow us to recruit more volunteers and run a preparation course so that more families can be given support. Thank you for ensuring that Home-Start will continue.

Success!

Home-Start Uttlesford has been successful in bidding for a grant from an allocation of £250,000 that the government has offered to Home-Start UK. The money is for schemes to run a year long project with a focus on innovative ways to support any of our families or new referrals who might be affected by the current recession. We have often highlighted that in an area of relative prosperity and stability it is harder than ever to deal with the isolation and stress of personal circumstances, poverty, unemployment or lack of transport.

Three schemes were selected within the Eastern Region, based on the quality and focus of their bids. Our bid was one of only two schemes that have been awarded the maximum amount of £10,000.

Helen Wood, Chair of Home-Start Uttlesford said "This is a real recognition of the needs in our area, the strength of our scheme and the commitment of our staff. Well done!!"

SILVER SPECTACULAR

A Summer Ball was held on September 19th to celebrate the achievement of 25 years continuous service and support to families with young children in our community by Home-start Uttlesford. We are grateful to Lt Col David Southall of 33 Regiment (EOD), Carver Barracks, Wimbish, for giving us permission to use the wonderful Sergeant's Mess to host this special event. Thank you to all the Army staff, including the catering staff, for contributing to the success of the evening, and to Michael Findlay's Band CRISIS who provided music for dancing.

As well as past Chairs of Trustees, Volunteers, Staff, friends, families and other supporters, we were honoured with the presence of Saffron Walden Town Mayor, Mr Doug Perry and his wife, and the Vice Chair of UDC, Mrs Sue Schneider and Mr Schneider. Nearly £1000 was raised by table games and a raffle. Thank you to all the local businesses for sponsorship and contributing prizes.

Linda Robinson, who has coordinated the work of the scheme for 25 years said *"The scheme opened on March 4th 1984 and has been training volunteers to support families with young children who find managing everyday life stressful, isolating or difficult ever since. Each year as many as 100 families and over 200 children benefit from the support of a volunteer in their home and the opportunity to join one of our two family groups, go on a summer outing, attend a special Christmas party and do the things that many of us take for granted. We are now looking forward to the next 25 years"*:

As our first Chair of Trustees, Jill Lloyd, said in sending her congratulations to us

"Home-start will always be needed"

100 Club Winners

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| August | Jenny Smith, Mrs R Murray, Pat Taylor |
| September | Monica Peake, Daisy Sturgess, Eresa Bradshaw |
| October | Lyn Snow, Rosemary Tusa, Jenny Wyall |

100 Club

You can join the 100 club for £12 a year. Half the money raised is donated as prize money and the other half is donated to HomeStart Uttlesford. For more information or to Join, please contact Pat in the Home-Start office.

Christmas Lunch

This years Friends Christmas lunch will take place on 26th November, in Clavering Village Hall. Tickets are £25, which includes a delicious home-cooked lunch with a glass of wine and an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping at a number of interesting stalls. If you wish to purchase a ticket, please call Jane Holford on 01763 838286.



Recession Funding Report

As mentioned earlier, Home-Start Uttlesford have secured a grant for £10,000 via Home-Start UK. The grant is to enable our scheme to give extra support to our families through the recession. Our aim is to offer a mixture of training for volunteers, practical help and fun activities for families.

We invited 40 families to be included in the project. At interview families are asked how the recession has impacted upon them individually and as a family. They are asked what they feel would help to ease the burden. The families are all struggling to cope with increasing prices on a restricted income. Paying the utilities is of particular concern. Many of the families have been seduced by the availability of easily obtained credit and are now struggling to meet the payments.

The ideas that have been given to us so far are: providing extra help with signposting to other agencies; money management; cooking on a budget; financial support for inexpensive family trips out.

We have one small project up and running. One mum, Helen, is organising a Home-Start tombola stall at Saffron Walden Late Night Shopping. Helen is requesting unwanted items to be used on the stall from volunteers, Home-Start family group mums, local businesses and the trustees. All the money raised will be spent buying Christmas presents for the children of the families included in the recession project. These families have said that they are worried about being able to give their children presents this Christmas.

We are not able to promise to fulfill all of the needs but we are intending to endorse the learning that comes from this research into our standard family support.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Home-Start or would like to make a donation or would simply like to find out more about our organisation then please visit our website at www.homestartuttlesford.org.uk or call 01799 520728 or e-mail homestartuttlesford@btinternet.com