



Celebrating 25 Years

Home-Start Uttlesford celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year.

To launch this exciting year for us all, we hosted a get together on 28th January at St Mark's College Barn at Audley End. All who attended enjoyed a lovely evening with music from the Walden Buskers and tasty nibbles provided by our Friends Committee.

Mike Hibbs, Mayor of Saffron Walden, presented Linda Robinson with flowers to thank her for her 25 years with Home-Start.

Helen Wood, Chair of Home-Start took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and enthusiasm during our first 25 years. Helen also pointed out that as the economic situation unfolds and brings new challenges to local families, the need for Home-Start in Uttlesford is unlikely to diminish.

Our thanks to everyone involved for the success of the evening.

Plans for other celebrations this year include,

Family Outing on the 4th June 2009

BIG Children's Party on 30th July 2009



Welcome to our Newsletter

We are pleased to present the first edition of the Home-Start Uttlesford newsletter. We hope this newsletter will provide information about what is happening within Home-Start, news about forthcoming activities & fundraising events and general items of interest. The newsletter is aimed at our volunteers, families and anyone else who has an interest in Home-Start Uttlesford.

We hope to produce this newsletter every quarter and a copy of the newsletter will also be available on our website at www.homestartuttlesford.org.uk

If there is anything you would like to see included in this newsletter, then please email Jacqui Innes on infocvs@btconnect.com or contact the Home-Start office. We would welcome any suggestions you may have.

New Volunteers

Due to a need for volunteers in the Dunmow area we have concentrated on recruiting in the Bishops Stortford, Hatfield Heath, Dunmow and Stansted areas, and I am pleased to say we received a good response. Eight volunteers have started the new preparation course. Hopefully, by the 2nd week in February we will be able to start matching them with the families on the waiting list that has accumulated over the past few months. We have had 7 referrals in the first week back after the Christmas break.

Congratulations also to the 12 volunteers who completed their training in November and are now matched with new families.

Linda Robinson

Congratulations!



Jackie, Annette and Ann have been supporting Home-Start families in the Uttlesford area for 10 years, Caroline and Jean have now completed 5 years. This achievement was celebrated with a lunch at the Chequers in Ugley.

We really do appreciate the dedication of these five volunteers and the time they have given to support the families. One of the volunteers told me that joining Home-Start was one of the best things she has ever done. It has given her so much joy to watch the parents' confidence and self-esteem grow during the time she visited them.

A Big Thank You

Home-Start Uttlesford would like to thank the SureStart Spangles Centre who have been very supportive. They have provided us with funding which has allowed us to buy toys, story-sacks and multi cultural dolls as well as many other items. They are also helping us to fund our new Healthy Eating Initiative with our family groups.

We would also like to thank Simon Day from the Eight Bells Restaurant in Saffron Walden for continuing to support Home-Start through their Art Exhibition. Commission from the sale of any pictures sold is donated to our organisation. Why not pop along and see the art work by Michelle Thompson and Julie Scarr which is being exhibited at the moment.

100 Club winners

January - Chris Grierson, Vivian Faulk,
Beverley McNally

February - Margaret Lines, Caroline Griffin,
Mrs R Murray

Friends of Home-Start Uttlesford

Christmas Lunch

The annual Home-Start lunch held in November was a sell out and raised just short of £5,000. This included a donation of £1,000. Slightly less was made on the stalls than last year and less was made on the wine as the committee were unable to take out a license themselves. Nevertheless the event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work.

Sworders Preview Evening

There will be a private preview of Sworders Country House Sale in their new auction rooms in Stansted Mountfitchet. The event will take place on Thursday 14th May, 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets £10, to include colour catalogue, wine and canapes, from Jane Holford, Kings Cottage, Elmdon, CB11 4NN. Tel: 01763 838286

"Beat the Blues - Go Green"

A sale of second hand, good quality men and women's clothing and good quality soft furnishings & household items is planned for May to tie in with the concept of spring cleaning. A venue has been confirmed and we are establishing contacts for donations.

Cake Stall

We will be having our regular cake stall outside Boots in Saffron Walden. Donations of cakes would be most welcome. Further details to follow.



Our annual Christmas party for our families was a great success. Children & parents all received a present from Father Christmas and we were entertained by Buttons the Clown.

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