

HAND IN HAND

Befriend a Child's Volunteer Newsletter
December 2009

A big **hello** and welcome to the December edition of Hand in Hand. Are we feeling Christmassy yet? Well if not, then you certainly will be after reading this newsletter! There's plenty going on over the festive period at Befriend a Child, not least the annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 20th. Don't forget to reply by the 11th to ensure you don't miss out on the fun! Check out the What's On guide on page 3 for a list of ideas for December—everything from carol concerts to car boots sales. Finally—have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Helping to Change It

CHANGEit recognises, supports and rewards young people aged 11-18 who want to or are already creating positive change in their local areas. All nominees receive certificates of recognition and finalists in the below 3 categories will be awarded prizes of up to £750, in addition to training and work-shadowing experiences.

The three prize categories are:

- Innovation** - for young people with great ideas who need help to get them off the ground
- Performance** - to celebrate the achievements of campaigners who have already made a difference
- Photography** - young people's photos that capture images of change inspired or created by other young people, or their personal view of change around them

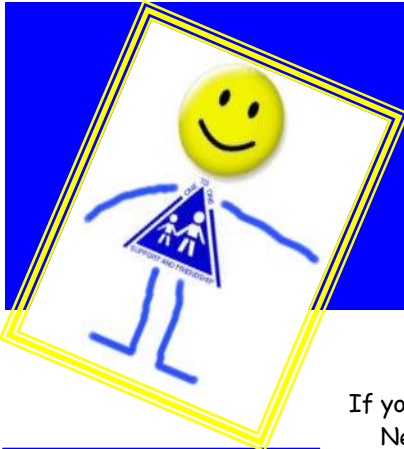
CHANGEit is a tremendous opportunity to boost young people's confidence and inspire more young campaigners. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit www.changeit.org.uk.



Westhill Rotarian Charles Edmond presents Befriend a Child Chief Executive Karen Farquhar with a cheque for £600 raised at the annual Westhill Gala Sedan Chair Race. A huge thank you to the Rotary Club.



*A Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to
all our supporters, volunteers and friends*



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Hello & Goodbye

Hello to
Wuraola
Emma Jane
Robyn
Craig
Tegan
Laura
Diane
Heather

Goodbye and thank you to
Lizzie and Stuart
Lisa M

A Trip Back in Time

If you're looking for a new idea for an outing in the New Year, why not check out the Archaeolink

Prehistory Park at Oyne? Here's a review from one of the children — sounds like he had a great time!

"My trip to Archaeolink was great fun. First we saw lots of real swords and locations of stone circles which have been found nearby. At the Bronze Age settlement we saw how axes were made. At the Iron Age Roundhouse we made some flour with a stone grinder. I got a chance to try out some archery (longbow) and learned about the Mongolian empire being very powerful because they were expert marksman with their bows and arrows.

We returned to the Bronze Age settlement later in time to see the molten ore being poured into the axe moulds.

A guide showed us how to make fire by rubbing pieces of wood together but we could only make the smell of the smoke and see smoke.

My favourite part was the archery. I think the things I did would be best for ages 9-11."



A Very Happy Birthday to the following staff and volunteers who celebrate a December birthday:

Kirstin C	-	4th
Freya M	-	12th
Lizzie P	-	13th
Mhairidh L	-	15th
Jacqueline F	-	19th
Sandra C	-	21st
Edward P	-	23rd
Emma W	-	23rd
Ryan R	-	29th



PARTY!

All volunteers are welcome to come and join the Befriend a Child staff for a drink at the Base Unit on **Friday, December 18th from 6pm.**

Just BYOB and help us celebrate the end of another successful year !!!



ARCHAEO LINK
PREHISTORY PARK

Archaeolink is about 20 minutes from Aberdeen and more suited to over eights.

Make sure you go when they have a special event on as there is more to do and see.

There is a café, gift shop & a small play area.

Costs are about £10 for 1 adult & 1 child.

For more information on Archaeolink, or for directions to the park, please visit www.archaeolink.co.uk.

Budding Designers?

For those of you who have used the Base Unit, you may have noticed that the rooms would benefit from a little decoration. So we are looking for inspiration for possible designs for both the TV room and the Arts and Crafts room.

Ideas could include favourite cartoons, computer games or film characters. Please encourage your befriendedees to have a say—it's their Base Unit after all! Let us know by emailing duncan@befriendachild.org.uk.

And Be Creative !!!!



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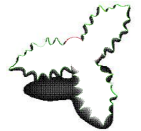
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THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO GO IN DECEMBER

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|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 nd December | - | Evening Express Carol Concert, for more information contact Music Hall - tickets £8.00 |
| 5 th December | - | Beach Clean Up 10-12 North end of Beach at Stone Sculpture |
| 6 th December | - | Santa Run 1pm @ Pittodrie Stadium 6k Fun Run |
| Alford Santa Train | - | First two weekends in December for more info tel 019755 62811 |
| 6 th December for children | - | Carols and Candlelight Concert, Mannofield Church 3pm £5 for adults £3 |
| 5,12 and 19 th December | - | Aberdeen Country Fayre, Belmont Street, Aberdeen |
| 12 th December | - | Christmas Car Boot Sale 8am -2pm – Aberdeen Snow Sports Centre |
| 13 th December | - | Grampian Hospitals Christmas Carol Concert, 2.30pm – Music Hall |
| 19 th December | - | Winter Festival Christmas Carol Concert, David Welsh Gardens, Duthie Park 4-6pm |



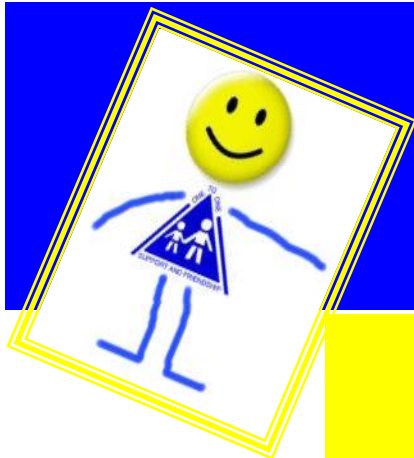
DON'T FORGET..... There's still time to book your place for the annual Befriend a Child Christmas Party at the Cophorne Hotel on Sunday, December 20th from 10.30am until 1.30pm. In order to finalise catering, please notify the office if you intend to come by Friday, December 11th at the latest. As well as a traditional two course meal, Alan's Magic will also be making a welcome return, along with a certain Mr S



A Fayre Old Time

The festive spirit came early at Befriend a Child on Saturday, November 28th at the annual Xmas Fayre. Despite a number of similar events in the area, a steady stream of visitors enjoyed the chance to pick up some stocking fillers and fill up on rolls and coffee!

Our patron Sandra Stephen and her husband John, Aberdeen's Lord Provost, also dropped in to pick up some tasty home-baking and catch up with staff and volunteers. A marvellous £600 was raised on the day which will help make Christmas extra special for our supported children.



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Quiz Night is a Trivia Triumph!

News In Brief

Befriend a Child have received a donation of bikes, two for a boy and girl aged 4-7 and two bikes for a girl and boy aged 7-11.

Any Befrienders interested in taking them for use during befriending should contact the office.



A number of Befrienders were confused over the timings for the recent Halloween Disco. Apologies for any disruption caused by the mix up!



Spaces are still available for the Christmas Crafts on Saturday 12th December. Please notify Jean at the office if you wish to attend.

Last night we went to a really fun quiz, That's Andy, Fi, Craig and me. I'm Liz.

The hall was packed full with thirty two teams,

And the rules of the contest were simple, it seems.

Competitors would be asked about things they should know,

And Befriend A Child charity would collect all the dough.

In the first round we were asked about Mary Queen of Scots,

But I'm afraid on history we four didn't know lots.

Questions got easier as the night went along,

With the highlight for me being gee us a song!

In Karen and Alan and Duncan and Jean,

Ours judges for the night were harsh, even mean!

But the food was delicious and the raffle went well,

And Ally Boobs disco was thoroughly swell!

So if mischief and laughter fills your heart with cheer,

Then quick book your place for the pub quiz next year!

Befriend a Child's annual quiz night with a difference raised over £1600 on Friday, November 20th, with 32 teams taking part. Rounds included Bah Humbug (with a Xmas theme of course) and a Countdown Conundrum round presented by the King of Pop!

The winners for the second year running were 'Could You Go a Chicken Supper Duncan Peter?' who very generously donated back £60 from the prize money.

A big thanks to all those who took part and helped out on the night!!!



The winning team - 'Could You Go a Chicken Supper Duncan Peter?'

