

HAND IN HAND

Befriend a Child's Volunteer Newsletter
May 2010

A big **hello** and welcome to the May edition of Hand in Hand. It's a jam-packed edition this month (well quite full anyway) so there's bound to be something of interest to everyone. On the news front, Befriend a Child's Chief Executive Karen Farquhar has been selected as a finalist in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. And the organisation is also looking forward to a fantastic redecoration project involving Enterprise North East Trust (see below). There are also a whole host of suggestions for activities over the next few weeks—why not try something new during your next befriending outing?



THE Befriend A Child Base Unit is set for an exciting revamp thanks to the dedication and commitment of staff at Enterprise North East Trust.

Co-ordinated by Project Manager Samantha Welsh, a team from the

Enterprise Community Task Force committee are setup to pool the

considerable resources of ENET to undertake a whirlwind redecoration challenge over the course of Friday and Saturday, May 28th and 29th.

Over course this means the building will be unavailable for use during these two days but the end result will be well worth the wait!

The project will culminate in an open day on Tuesday, June 1st from noon—a great chance to get a first look at the newly revamped Chill Out Room and Board Room! *See Page 4 for more on the Open Day.*

There's Been a Murder.....



Hopefully you all had a chance to read about the successful Befriend a Child

Murder Mystery in last month's edition of Hand in Hand. If you didn't then there's still a chance to look up previous editions :)

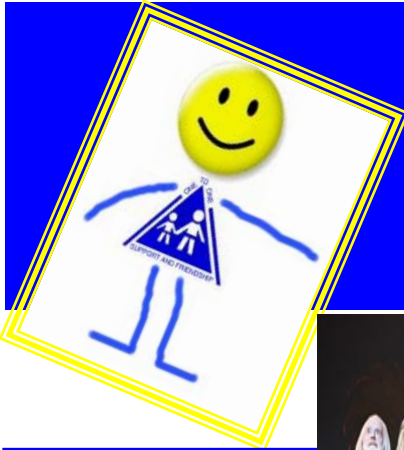


Larry Vespucci (Bill Murdoch) was one of the colourful characters at the last Befriend a Child Murder Mystery in March.

The next **Murder Mystery** is well in hand and will be held at the Douglas Hotel on Friday, October 29th—just in time for Halloween.

Watch this space for ticket prices and the ghoulish theme in the coming weeks!!!!

We're also on the lookout for any amateur thespians out there. If anyone fancies themselves as a budding Bela Lugosi, or a potential Peter Cushing, then please contact Duncan at the office. We'd love to add some new faces to the acting pool of the Befriend a Child Players!



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Hello & Goodbye

Hello to
Kyle
Claire
Louise
Naomi

Goodbye and thank you
to
Jan
Bob and Wendy



TICKETS are still available for Joseph at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, May 29th at 5pm. **Anyone interested in attending should contact the office to check on availability.** Craig Chalmers, one of the most popular finalists in the hit BBC series 'Any Dream Will Do' takes on the title role. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including *Close Every Door*.



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

Cheryl C	2nd
Gillian Mc	4th
Keith D	7th
Fiona S	7th
Jill S	8th
Jean G	12th
Laura G	14th
Fiona F	16th
Sarah B	17th
Barry S	22nd



Proud Finalists!

Befriend a Child Chief Executive Karen Farquhar been announced as a regional finalist in the 24th annual Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. If Karen is successful at the regional event on Wednesday, June 23rd, she will go forward to the UK final in London in October.

The awards recognise business innovation and development, as well as a drive to succeed. Given the success of Befriend a Child over the past 18 months, in the face of adverse economic conditions, the place on the shortlist is fully deserved. Good Luck Karen!



VSA Day 2010

Sunday 16th May 2010, 10am - 4pm
Duthie Park, Aberdeen
Stalls, Bouncy Castles, Games
Entertainment, and featuring Guinness
World Record Strongman John Evans!





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THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO GO IN MAY



Saturdays and Sundays throughout May: Bubble Show at the Satrosphere Science Centre — Come along and learn all about bubbles! Demonstrations at Noon, 2pm and 4pm.

Saturday and Sunday, May 8th and 9th — Myth, Magic & Folklore at Archaeolink
Delve into our ancient Celtic past, through folklore, storytelling and herblore, passed down through the ages.

Sunday, May 16th: VSA Day at Duthie Park, 10am — 4pm. Come along for a fun family day out with stalls, games, entertainers, bouncy castles and meet the Guinness World Record strongman, John Evans!

Sunday, May 23rd: City of Aberdeen Baker Hughes 10k Race & Fun Run. Why not head along and show your support to the participants raising money for Befriend a Child round the beautiful harbour and beach area of Aberdeen. The race itself starts from 9.30am.

Saturday, May 29th: Aberdeen County Fair, 9am to 5pm. Enjoy a browse around the stalls in Belmont Street and see all the home grown veg, fruit, Aberdeen Angus beef, fresh fish and much more. Local crafts will also be for sale.

Monday, May 31st — Minibeast Safari at Arnhall Moss, Westhill, 6.30pm to 8pm. As part of Westhill Gala Week, come along and explore your local nature reserve, looking for some of the smaller residents in the woodland area on this free tour. Places are limited so booking essential by contacting the Garioch Ranger on 01467 681470.



Spaces are still available for
the summer outing on

Saturday 24th July to

Charleton Farm for berry

picking. Great fun and healthy too!

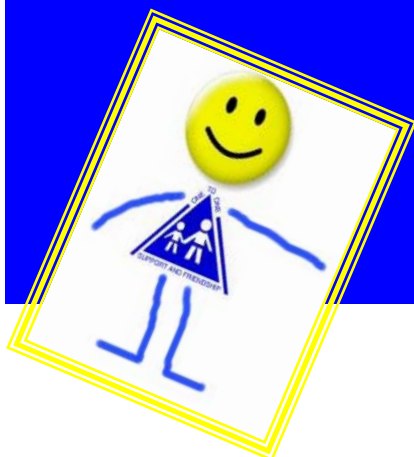
There are also still spaces on offer for
the trip to Edinburgh zoo on Saturday,
August 7th. A great chance to see the
new arrivals — a group of 11 chimpanzees
— and old favourites too!

Contact Jean, Andy or Nicola to book

Annual Evaluations

You should all have by now, received a copy of our annual evaluation form, either by post or by email. We cannot stress enough the importance of completing these forms to allow us to accurately measure the impact of befriending and any positives/negatives to be addressed. PLEASE send them back to the office asap. We need the info in order to evaluate it and have it processed before our meeting with our major funders later this year.

Evaluations are also being carried out with referral sources (social work, health visitors etc) and the parents/guardians of the children befriended. We understand how *boring* paperwork can be but we really appreciate your help with this—all feedback can only be for the benefit of the young people and the organisation as a whole! Thank You.



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OPEN FOR BUSINESS

You are all invited to our Open Day on Tuesday, June 1st between noon and 6pm to help us mark the new look Base Unit. The generous and hard working staff at Enterprise North East Trust will be undertaking a re-decoration project later this month and to co-incide with National Volunteer Week. More details about the format in due course but please keep a few hours spare to pay us a visit!



Befriend a Child Patron Sandra Stephen joined Chief Executive Karen Farquhar to accept a cheque for £1000 from Aberdeen Business-women's Network President Holly McDonald (right). The funds were raised through the group's monthly business card raffle at their events during 2009.

On The Ball!

Befriend a Child now have their very own Ball Committee who are pulling out all the stops to help make our big annual event, even bigger! They are putting their collective heads together to help sell tables and secure sponsorship for the 2011 ball at

Ardoe House on Friday, February 25th.

If you have any contacts—be it friends, relatives or your own workplace—who may be interested in finding out more about the ball, please ask them to contact the committee's Chairman Scott Findlay on 07764 413493



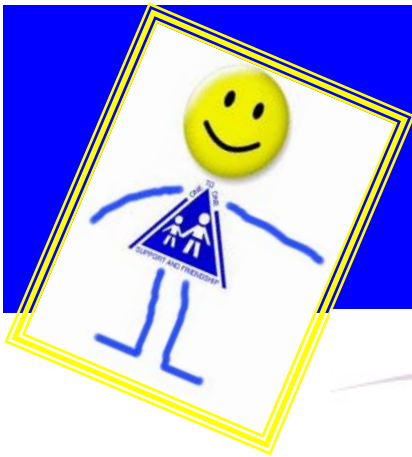
Be Part of the Group

Don't Forget - We very much would like to see all young people attend at least two of Bev's monthly group sessions in the Base Unit. Bev very kindly volunteers her time, and we also have secured funding which may be withdrawn if the sessions are not fully utilised.

If you or your befriender have any suggestions for future activities, please don't hesitate to let us know.

The full calendar for the rest of 2010 is as follows:

- SUNDAY 9TH MAY: Smoothie Making.
- SATURDAY 12TH JUNE: Father's Day Cards
- SATURDAY 17TH JULY: Games Day
- SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST: TBA
- SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER: TBA
- SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER: Halloween Theme
- SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER: TBA
- SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER: Christmas Theme



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Bon Accord Rotary Club's annual Bike Ride will this year benefit Befriend a Child among others, and the organisers are keen for anyone interested in taking part, to sign up and get in the saddle.

Cyclists both young and old, irrespective of experience, can have a fun day out and help raise funds for Befriend a Child at the same time.

The ride follows two routes, with both starting from the registration point at the old bus shelter near the entrance to Hazlehead Park. The shorter route of 7 miles stays in close proximity to the Park boundaries around Cults and is aimed at younger participants and those less experienced.

The longer route of 22 miles is more challenging and meanders through picturesque Deeside towards Garlogie and Peterculter, and is suitable for those wanting to spend a bit more time in the saddle. Please note that a short 500m section of the longer route is on a rough track which may be unsuitable for high performance racing bikes.

Families with smaller children who may not be able to participate in the 7 or 22 mile routes are encouraged to follow the riders on the first kilometre of the ride and then continue around the park playing fields to the finish, a total distance of around 1 mile.

The Bon Accord Bike Ride was conceived in 2005 as the club's first fund raiser, and the initial event attracted over 70 participants and raised over £4000. Since then 100s of riders have participated and over £20,000 has been raised for a combination of local charities and Rotary International.

For more information or to register to participate, contact Colin Reid on cjwreid@btinternet.com or 07796 586395.

Alternatively email Bruce Skinner on bikeride@bonaccordrotary.com or call 01224 672477.

