

HAND IN HAND

Befriend a Child's Volunteer Newsletter
September 2010

A big **hello** and welcome to the September issue of Hand in Hand. As ever we've been busy throughout the last month and it looks like you have too! This edition has plenty of ideas for getting active during your befriending—why not check out Andy's review of the Maritime Museum on page 2, or the list of Places To Go on page 3 for some new ideas?

Recognising Your Efforts

VSkills for Employability is a brand new, volunteering-based approach to demonstrate and collect evidence of the general work skills acquired through the experience of volunteering.

The VSkills for Employability approach supports volunteers to capture these skills and gain a qualification in employability. This award is available in every school and college in Scotland.

The goal of VSkills for Employability is to improve the employment prospects of people who are volunteering but not currently in work. It's free to take part and provides a way of recognising the skills, qualities and attributes volunteers are gaining from their volunteering experience.

Further information and guidance is available on the VDS (Volunteer Development Scotland) website www.vds.org.uk where you can find out more and sign up to take part.



For a report on the Summer outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park, see page 2

A NUMBER of Befriend a Child group events have been

cancelled this year, much to our disappointment. As well as the Berry picking trip to Charleston Farm near Montrose, a proposed Ferrari Club Day at Alford Transport Museum in September was also shelved due to lack of interest.

Previous attempts to arrange coaching sessions in football and hockey have also not attracted significant numbers to allow them to go ahead. As the staff are constantly making new contacts during our daily work, we would be keen to know why the take up on what appear to be new and exciting opportunities for the young people, is so poor.

As part of the volunteer agreement, and indeed the mission statement of the organisation, Befrienders are asked to open new doors to the children we support, and provide the chance to experience new activities and interests which they may not otherwise encounter.

Therefore we would be very keen to have your feedback on the group activities:

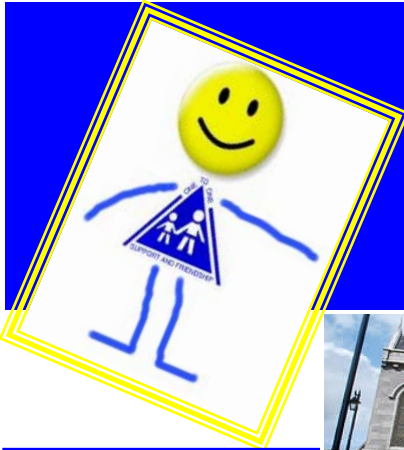
Are they of no interest to the young people?

Are there alternative sessions which your Befriendee would like to attend?

Are you not receiving the information about the activities?

Whatever the reason, it's vitally important that we are aware to allow us to change our future approach to such sessions. Please call Jean, Andy or Nicola on 01224 210060 and let us know your thoughts.

Thank you :)



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Hello & Goodbye

No hellos this month,
but

Goodbye and thank you
to

Jacqueline
Sasha
Andrea

A BIG thank you to the
sponsors of this year's
Summer Outing - The
Khyber Pass and
Petersen SBS — who
helped make it such a
special day for the
young people who made
the trip to Blair
Drummond Safari Park.

The children had a great
day, stopping off at
Stracathro for a snack
and juice, before arriv-
ing at the park to find
the weather was great!

After a busy day of
wildlife spotting, the
group stopped at Forfar
for chip suppers and
went to the local park to
enjoy them. The weary
children and volunteers
arrived back at 8pm in
Aberdeen. A 'roaring'
success.



I had already decided to take my two girls to the Maritime Museum at some point during the girls' school summer holidays. None of us had been before so I was looking forward to it, as were my girls. So we got there and a rather cheery bloke at reception asked my girls if they wanted to do the treasure trail quiz. He gave them both a clipboard with the quiz on it and a pen each. Excellent! A fun aspect to our visit.

They were fascinated by a huge ship's propeller in the foyer and asked me to tell them about it. Of course every exhibition has an information plaque so I encouraged them to read it, which they did. Boost! Educational too.

So the idea of the treasure trail is to find out about the exhibits as you go along solving the clues. The clues are in an order which takes you progressively through the museum so eliminates children

running back and forth through the three floors. The museum covers the entire history of Aberdeen harbour, and the surrounding sea area. It charts the many changes, its many uses, imports and exports, the oil industry, the

fishing industry but to name a few. It's a fascinating place with so much information that I am sure many people are totally oblivious to. The museum is a modern, spacious building with fantastic exhibits - there are various interactive ones too so the children get to touch things without the disapproving looks from adults. On the ground floor there is a café if you fancy a snack or a spot of lunch.

We spent about an hour and a half in there but could easily have spent longer. My two children didn't get bored at all; they were amazed at seeing all "the old stuff" that they had only ever seen on television. They loved it. For a 7 and an 8 year old I was impressed at their level of interest and they even asked if they could come back again. **ANDY**



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

Fiona H	-	1st
Jasmine M	-	2nd
Susan P	-	9th
John M	-	11th
Alice R	-	12th
Suzi N	-	14th
Sylvia S	-	16th
Samantha S	-	18th
Gladys T	-	19th
Dan W	-	19th
Anna M	-	21st
Shirley M	-	24th
Sami M	-	26th
Lisa E	-	28th





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September – What's On?

Saturday and Sunday, 5th and 6th – Aberdeen Modeller's Society Show at the Gordon Highlander's Museum. An amazing display of precision scaled models including aircraft, armoured vehicles, ships and figures. Entry is free from 11am to 4pm (Saturday) and 1pm to 4pm (Sunday).

Sunday 5th – MRI Harbour Festival, Stonehaven. Stonehaven Harbour Festival is a free event held every year at the Stonehaven Harbour featuring live rescue demonstrations, stalls for local businesses, children's activities and competitions. The event runs from Noon to 4.30pm.

Saturday 11th – Doors Open Day. This annual event sees many of Aberdeen's buildings and tourist attractions open their doors to the public for free. Participating venues for 2010 include Aberdeen Sports Village, Grampian Police HQ and the Zoology Museum. For a full list visit www.doorsopenday.org.uk and select Aberdeen City.

Saturday 18th – Beach Litter Survey and Clean Up. Why not spend a couple of hours from 2pm – 4pm on the North end of Aberdeen Beach, helping to clean up and survey litter for the Marine Conservation Society? If you fancy doing your bit to help, call Iain House on 01224 869245 or e mail him at ijhouse@btinternet.com.

Sunday 19th – Aberdeen Lions International Funday. A free event at Duthie Park from Noon to 4pm, bringing together cultures from across Aberdeen. Experience food, dances, performances, crafts and information from countries across the world.

Saturday and Sunday, 25th and 26th – Medieval Realm: The Battle of Harlaw at

Archaeolink. Spend the bank holiday weekend with local re-enactment group Medieval Realm & Friends, as they entertain with living history and battle re-enactments from 1411 when Donald, Lord of the Isles fought The Earl of Mar just North of Inverurie.



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Open Studios

North East Open Studios (NEOS) is Scotland's Largest Open Studios event! An award winning, not for profit collective of artists, makers and galleries in the North East of Scotland who open their doors to the public yearly.

Running from Saturday, September 11th to Sunday, September 19th, the annual event offers the chance to see all forms of art from photography to furniture.

There are so many different options to try, across the city and shire:

Why not visit Milton of Crathes at Banchory, the Gordon Highlander's Museum or the Vernier Studio in Cotton Street? Many of the exhibitions and venues also have food available.

Visit www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk for the full list of participating venues and artists

News In Brief

Befriend A Child are once again selling Spree books priced at £23.

To purchase a Spree book, please call in at the office or call 01224 210060.



We have a boys' bike suitable for an 8-11 year old which is free to a good home. If you think your Befriender could make use of it please call the

office.



The base unit is open during the October school holidays from Monday 11th to Friday 22nd

between 10am and 7pm (except Friday which will be 10am to 4pm)

Call the office to book.



Date for the diary

This year's BAC Halloween Party is on Sunday 31st October from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the United Services Club. Come along and get into the 'spirit'



COYR!

Two youngsters were lucky enough to be at Pittodrie on the opening day of the season to watch the Dons canter to a 4-0 win over Hamilton, Aberdeen's first opening day win at home for 16 years!

It was 'a great day out, absolutely brilliant,' according to the children.

Tickets are available for all home league matches this season—just call the office to check on availability if you fancy roaring on the Dons!

The next Base Unit session will be held on Saturday 11th

September - Autumn

Extravaganza/Treasure Hunt. There will be 2 sessions from 11am to 1pm, and 1pm to 3pm.

Also please remember that the Base Unit will be closed over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, September 25th and 26th.