

## New Volunteers

We are delighted to have 6 new volunteers training with us in Cirencester.

To help us prepare the volunteers for home visiting we have invited speakers in from the Health Visiting Team, Children's Centre, Cotswold Counselling and the Children & Families team and would like to thank them all for working alongside us in this way.



## Dates For Your Diary

7<sup>th</sup> Dec - Cirencester Volunteers Xmas lunch

8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Stow volunteers Xmas lunch

Feb - Cirencester Volunteer training

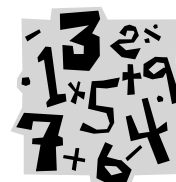
Mar - Coffee & Cake

May - Cirencester & Stow Volunteer training

## Number Crunching

**36** families receiving weekly visits from a volunteer at the end of September

**47** trained home-visiting volunteers in the scheme at the end of September. Of these: 36 visiting families, 5 in the process of being matched with a family, 6 resting.



**46** families supported April 2011 to Sept 2011 inclusive.

**14** new volunteers on the Ciren & Stow Volunteer Preparation Courses



Home-Start Cotswolds would like to wish you all a

*Merry Christmas  
& A Happy  
New Year!*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To celebrate the success of the past 5 years Home-Start Cotswolds organised a party for all the families, volunteers, trustees and staff who have been involved in the scheme since it started in 2006. 110 people from across the Cotswolds came to help us celebrate and great fun was had by all. A variety of activities were arranged for the children which were enjoyed by adults too!

Kate brought a range of objects which could be covered in colourful decopatch; everyone helped Francis design some Home-Start bunting which will be used to decorate our gazebo at future events; Carolyn introduced us to a fabulous assortment of puppets and the children arranged their own puppet show; Ella



used her beauty skills to paint nails and braid hair; and much time and energy was spent on the bouncy castle. A café ran throughout offering cakes, hot dogs and sandwiches. And everything was free!!



At lunchtime Clare Baker, the Home-Start Chair, cut a decorative cake donated by Lesley Thorn and presented prizes to: Poppy, Emma and Daisy the winners of our colouring competition.

Our thanks go to all the people who contributed to make this such a enjoyable event.



## North Cotswolds News

### Training New Volunteers

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 8 new volunteers started their Home-Start training (see photo). They will be ready to be matched with families in December.

### Rotary Collection

On 24<sup>th</sup> September the Rotary collected outside Budgens in Moreton in Marsh and raised £500 for Home-Start. We are very grateful to them for this amazing donation.



## Welcome to New Trustee Maria Evans



Maria started out as an English and Drama teacher. Whilst her 4 children were small she ran an exclusive fashion design business. Later she worked in television researching and producing factual programmes and worked with many celebrities including Zoe Ball & Bob Geldof.

Maria ran her own coaching company, Creating Results for 7 years, specialising in coaching small business owners, directors and middle managers, working in a variety of environments including education, the financial sector, health care, and IT. She has been interviewed several times on BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

She was a Home-Start volunteer for 2 years. Recently she became a Trustee. Maria says "I'm happy I heard about Home-Start-Cotswold. It is such a worthwhile charity. I still keep in touch with my Home-Start family, it's so rewarding seeing how well they are getting on. I wish I'd had a Home-Start volunteer when I was a young mum."



## Summer Picnics

Summer may seem a long time ago now, but we could not resist putting in a picture from our Cirencester summer picnics! A number of families joined us and had great fun playing with giant snakes and ladders, taking part in ball games and using the park equipment. It is always a good time to catch up with other volunteers and families and a welcome break from the long summer holidays.

## Staff & Trustee Away Day

On 21st September all the Home-Start staff and trustees met at the Cirencester Baptist Church for the annual away day. The day started with a presentation from a team of trustees and staff who are carrying out a review of the Home-Start Cotswolds strategic plan.

The rest of the day was dedicated to profile raising with a very informative talk from Beth Whittaker, Viva Communications. Beth then facilitated groups to help us build a profile raising plan. "It was particularly helpful to hear what information to put in a press release to help increase our chances of getting newspaper coverage" commented one of the trustees.



## QA Assessment

We have just been reviewed by Home-Start UK's Quality Assurance staff. This happens once every 3 years. They speak to staff, management committee, families, volunteers, partner agencies and referrers to get a picture of our scheme and the work we do here in the Cotswolds. This is a positive process which aims to identify areas of good practice and also identify areas where we can improve our service.

The full report is being written up, but in the meantime have a look below to see what some of our families, volunteers and partner organisations said about Home-Start Cotswolds:

### Volunteers said...

*"It was great when Home-Start said I had skills they needed - I didn't even know I had those skills"*

*"It's very rewarding - you can look back and see you have made a bit of difference"*

*"The prep course was fun - and I did learn something as well"*

### Partner Organisations said...

*"One family has told me that Home-Start has been an absolute lifeline"*

*"We only partner with organisations who have strong Policy and Practice in place, Home-Start is one of them"*

*"Home-Start helps build Mums confidence and self esteem in a non threatening and non judgemental way. Families really value that"*

### Families said...

*"I love having Home-Start"*

*"At first it felt uncomfortable asking for help, it did take a few sessions but my volunteer showed me it was fine to ask for help"*

*"My volunteer knows what is going on week by week, the continuity is really good, if anything has gone wrong I can talk to my volunteer"*