

Childhood First

Greenfields

GREENFIELDS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Autumn 2011 Newsletter



Situated in the heart of Kent, **Greenfields** House and School provide year-round specialist care, education and treatment for children aged 5 to 13 years old. Greenfields is part of **Childhood First**, a pioneering charity that helps children at risk of a lifetime in and out of the justice and psychiatric systems, as a result of the severe emotional trauma they have suffered because of neglect and abuse.

Registered Charity No. 286909

Tel: 020 3326 4755 Email: support@childhoodfirst.org.uk

Web: www.childhoodfirst.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings from all at Greenfields Friends and Childhood First. This is the first edition of the new Greenfields Friends Newsletter to keep you more closely in touch with what is happening with Greenfields Friends, the work of Childhood First in Kent and how we are progressing. The newsletter will be circulated twice a year. We hope that you will find it interesting and informative.

**With all good wishes, Greenfields Friends Committee &
All at Greenfields and Childhood First**

Lead Committee

Sarah Scarratt, Chair
Catriona Prest, Secretary
Marylyn Bacon
Tim Bacon

Kate Gale
Deirdre Massey
Caroline Stewart (Childhood First)
Natacha Woods

News

Greenfields makes new Friends in Kent

The last twelve months have seen Childhood First continue to develop stronger support networks in the regions surrounding our centres. Pioneered in Kent with the formation of the Greenfields Friends Committee, local Friends groups are taking shape to raise awareness and support fundraising. We are very touched by all the interest and support that has already been shown in Kent.

The Greenfields Friends Committee at large is headed by the Lead Committee. Our Lead Committee members include Sarah Scarratt (Chair), Catriona Prest (Secretary), Marylyn and Tim Bacon, Kate Gale, Deirdre Massey, Natacha Woods and Caroline Stewart (Childhood First). The Greenfields Friends Committee has hit the ground running and we are very grateful for all their hard work and commitment to making such a success of the awareness and fundraising events that have been held to date. Further details on these events are reported later in this issue.

Childhood First welcomes new Patrons from Kent

Earlier this year, Childhood First was pleased and honoured to welcome 4 new patrons from within Kent, representing our wish to strengthen local support for our children's homes. Peregrine Massey, the former High Sheriff, his wife Deirdre, and Tim and Marylyn Bacon, have been instrumental in a highly effective campaign of awareness-raising and recruitment of support.

Fond farewell to our Deputy Director



At the end of August, Greenfields bid a fond farewell to our dearly loved Deputy Director Jane Greensted. Jane has been a highly valued member of the Greenfields team for almost 10 years, serving as Deputy Director for the last 5 years.

A retirement celebration was held in Jane's honour on 29th August in Woodchurch. We would

like to thank Peregrine and Deirdre Massey for kindly hosting the celebration and all the guests that attended for giving Jane such a special send-off.

Ground floor development goes ahead at Greenfields

During the summer, the first phase of the ground floor development project at Greenfields was completed thanks to the generosity and support of Greenfields Friends. The works in this initial phase involved the repositioning and installation of a brand new boiler. It is planned that the remaining phases of the project will begin in summer 2012 and be completed later in the year. The ground floor development project focuses on the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the kitchen and dining area at Greenfields. A huge thank you to all who have supported this project!

Greenfields rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

The quality of the work that we do, with some of the most emotionally and psychologically damaged children in the country, continues to be evident from the outcomes that they achieve. Over the past two years, we have worked hard to try to understand and better meet the very detailed and prescriptive requirements of Ofsted inspections. In the most recent round of inspections undertaken earlier in the year, Greenfields again received a rating of 'Outstanding' from Ofsted inspectors. It is a great credit to our staff teams at Greenfields and a testament to their hard work and commitment.

Recent events

Wonderful reception in Westwell

On 24th March, His Honour Judge Richard and Mrs Sarah Scarratt opened their home in Westwell to play host to over 40 guests who gathered for a fundraising reception, the inaugural event organised by Greenfields Friends. Guests were treated to an array of delicious eats laid on by members of the Greenfields Friends Committee and wine and soft drinks donated by the Scarratt family.

We are very grateful for the enthusiasm with which the guests supported the evening's raffle as well their generous donations. The raffle featured a weekend for two at a Malmaison or Hotel Du Vin hotel,

kindly donated by John Harrison, Childhood First's Chair of Trustees; a gift voucher for Fenwicks, kindly donated by Hugo and Kate Fenwick; a voucher for a meal at Shepherd Neame's The Vine Inn in Tenterden, kindly organised by Nigel Bunting; and the luxurious Bath Indulgence hamper, kindly donated by Greenfields Friends Committee. We very much hope that the lucky raffle winners enjoyed their prizes!

The evening raised **£1,580** towards the ground floor development at Greenfields, which focuses on the development of the kitchen and dining room area. Thank you to all the organisers and guests for making the evening such a success.

Hillcrest hosts Greenfields Friends lunch

On 6th June, around 100 guests gathered at Hillcrest Farm in Sevington for the Greenfields Friends lunch, kindly hosted by His Honour Judge Stephen and Mrs Amanda Robbins.



Greenfields Friends Lunch Committee pictured above (from left to right): Catriona Prest (Secretary), Deirdre Massey, Sally Rumbellow, Diana Hope, Penny Cobb, Marion Hanbury, Marylyn Bacon, Susie Christian, Miranda Kelly and Sarah Scarratt (Chair).

Guests enjoyed a luncheon feast laid on by the ladies of the Greenfields Friends Lunch Committee, which was followed by an address from Stephen Blunden, Chief Executive of Childhood First.

The lunch closed with a raffle also organised by the Greenfields Friends Lunch Committee, the centrepiece of which was a stunning quilt made under the expert direction of Vanessa Stanton.

The lunch raised **£3,114** towards the ground floor development at Greenfields. A huge thank you to our gracious hosts, the ladies of our Lunch Committee, our team of wine servers and raffle helpers, and our generous raffle contributors and guests.



Stephen Blunden, Chief Executive of Childhood First (pictured standing), addresses the lunch guests.

Our grateful thanks to...



Freddie and Richard Scarratt (picture above) who conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in July 2010 raising £10,887 for the ground floor development at Greenfields; and all their generous sponsors.



Richard Greensted (pictured above) who cycled 365 miles, from coast to coast and back, raising £5,847 for Greenfields and all his generous sponsors.



Susie Christian and friends who raised £600 to purchase a fabulous new JumpKing JumpPod trampoline (pictured above) for Greenfields.



Ed Prest (pictured above) who undertook an epic cycle ride from

Lands End to John O'Groats at the beginning of June raising £1,795 for Greenfields and all his generous sponsors.

The congregation of St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge for their generous donation of £153 from their Christmas crib service collection to Greenfields.

Everyone who took part in the pancake party at Hamstreet in support of Greenfields, raising £65.

All the guests at the March reception kindly hosted by Richard and Sarah Scarratt for their generous donations and enthusiastic support of the raffle, and the raffle donors who contributed such wonderful raffle prizes. They raised £1,580.

All the guests who attended the Greenfields Friends lunch on 6th June for their generous donations and enthusiastic support of the raffle. Our gracious hosts Amanda and Stephen Robbins. Vanessa Stanton and quilters for their first class workmanship on the splendid quilt, which they donated to the lunch raffle and all raffle donors who contributed fantastic raffle prizes. They raised £3,114.

Dates for your diary

Reception in the Himalayan Gardens, Riverhill

Join Greenfields Friends for a reception in the Himalayan Gardens at Riverhill House, Sevenoaks. This event will be hosted on **Thursday 10th May 2012** by Jane Rogers, former High Sheriff of Kent and member of the Greenfields Friends Committee. Further details on this event will be featured in the next edition of this newsletter.

Childhood First's BBC Radio 4 Appeal (19th February 2012)

We are delighted to announce that Childhood First has been selected as one of the charities to be featured in the BBC Radio 4 Appeal 2012. Childhood First's appeal slot will be broadcast on **Sunday 19th February 2012**. Please tune in to support us if you can.

Getting involved

You can make a big difference to the lives of some of the UK's most vulnerable children with Greenfields Friends and Childhood First. There are many ways that you can get involved.

The Greenfields Friends Committee helps the charity in a wide variety of ways. They help us to **raise awareness** about the charity and our life-saving work in Kent. They help us to **widen our network of Friends and supporters**. They **lend us their professional expertise** to help the charity realise a project, or further the development of the charity and its work. They help us to **raise vital voluntary donations** through fundraising events to fund new facilities, equipment and services for the benefit of the children in our care, as well as any improvements that we need to make to existing ones.

If you would like to become involved with Greenfields Friends, please contact **Sarah Scarratt** on **01233 712346** or by email at sarah.scarratt@virgin.net.

You can also help by becoming a supporter of the life-saving work of Childhood First in Kent. If you would like to become a member of Greenfields Friends or if you have any questions about the charity and its work, please contact **Caroline Stewart** on **020 3326 4755** or by email at c.stewart@childhoodfirst.org.uk.

A message from the Chief Executive

Dear Friends,

The values which guide Childhood First are those we learn on a daily basis from each other in this work:

- interdependence
- hope
- thoughtfulness
- authenticity
- perseverance.

Some years ago, I came across an administrative colleague who had cut this list of values out of our brochure and stuck it on the wall next to her phone, to support her in embodying them in her work and life. I was moved by this simple commitment to what it means to work for Childhood First, and have since tried to develop a habit of regular reflection on these values.

Every member of Childhood First, children and adults alike, learns so much from the others. It is openness to learning from others, at a profound human level, across all ages and roles, that is the core of our work and the 'method' of our community.

With warmest regards and many thanks for your continuing support for our work.



Stephen Blunden
Chief Executive



Childhood First

healing hurt minds

Childhood First, 210 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JX

Phone:

020 7928 7388

Email:

support@childhoodfirst.org.uk

Web:

www.childhoodfirst.org.uk

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