



# Friends of the Family

## Newsletter August 2011

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Friends of the family have been very busy since the last newsletter with a number of wonderful and very profitable Fundraising Events. These have been organised mostly by volunteers who are a support to the charity in so many ways. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who not only offer their time and energy to the charity and its work but also their dedication and commitment that goes far beyond their voluntary role.



### Open Garden Success!

A glorious day was had by all who attended the open garden event at The Deane House, Sparshot on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The beautiful garden was kindly opened to the public in support of Friends of the Family and raised an amazing total of £905.15 for the charity. Visitors had the opportunity to amble through the stunning grounds to admire both traditional and contemporary gardens including a croquet lawn, orchard, fruit and vegetable garden and meadows. After a wander visitors were also able to enjoy delicious refreshments served by the host, Chris Morse. Many thanks go to her and her family for organising a truly wonderful event.



### MARVELLOUS MUSICAL MAYHEM!

Many thanks go to the Clifton Singers who undertook a fantastic performance in the face of great adversity on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at St John's Church. The singer's agreed to go ahead with this performance even though their teacher was extremely ill and with only standing room available on the night, the performance was a sell out! In total the event raised an amazing £1300 in support of Friends of the Family. Our thoughts and very best wishes go to the Clifton Singers and their wonderful teacher, Kate Morgan, whom without the event would not have been conceived.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz Night

**WHEN:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm

**WHERE:** Holy Trinity Church, Winchester

**COST:** £10 a ticket (incl fish & chip supper)

Tickets available now on 01962 776425  
All proceeds to Friends of the Family



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to group member Kerry who passed the first year of her Access to higher Education Diploma Course with distinction! We are all very proud of her achievements and wish her the very best of luck for her forthcoming year's studies. Good Luck Kerry!

Many thanks go to St Cross Hospital for naming us one of their beneficiaries at the St Cross summer Fete this year.

The Fete took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June and was very successful with a donation of £828.16 to Friends of the Family from the proceeds on the day.



This was a photo taken last Sunday at the Quaker meeting when I represented Friends of the Family in a heartfelt show of gratitude to the Quakers for the generous sharing of the house and gardens with us and our families!

They appreciated it and it was a worthwhile thing to do. I thought you might like to see!

Colette Dunford, Under 5s Group Leader



Alexandra  
**Rose**  
Charities  
the charities' charity

Alexandra Rose Charities helps Friends of the Family in a variety of different ways. We recently had a street collection with their support that raised £400 and they also awarded us their "Special Award Grant" of £1000 to help with our running costs.

In November Alexandra Rose Charity will have a raffle with cash prizes of £3000, £1000 and £500. If you would like to purchase tickets for £1 each (of which 90p comes directly to friends of the Family then please contact Viv Wheeler on 01962 840283

For more information about Alexandra Rose and how it supports smaller charities like us raise funds then please take a look at their website

[www.alexandrarosecharities.org.uk](http://www.alexandrarosecharities.org.uk)

## Do you want to help Friends of the Family whenever you shop online?

It's very simple - just visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to register and shop with over 2000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more.

Whenever you buy something, the retailer makes a donation to Friends of the Family. So far 23 supporters have helped us raise £192.72 so it really does work.

We'd be really grateful if you could use easyfundraising too. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

Plus, if you register before 31st August 2011 you'll automatically receive one entry into a FREE PRIZE DRAW to win £500 to spend with stationery giants Viking.

So please make a difference to our good cause and take a look at easyfundraising today

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Thanks

## GEORGIE'S NEWS!

Georgie the dog, who recently raised £500 for Friends of the Family by walking the 25 miles from Winchester to Salisbury on the Clarendon Way with her owners Ceara and Trevor Watson, has become a mummy to five beautiful puppies!

Georgie first met daddy dog Dutch on one of her practice walks at Broughton. They then met again a few weeks later to mate and as they say "the rest is history!" The puppies were born on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August by caesarean and are all now doing really well.

Trevor and Ceara are thrilled with the new arrivals and have named them, Mercury, Taylor, May, Deacon and Freddie after Trevor's favourite band Queen!

Congratulations Georgie!





## Write a letter!

Writing a letter can really get results! About a year ago, my husband and I had lunch at The Bell at St Cross and there was a notice in the loo asking for local charities to apply, so that the pub could raise funds for them. So I wrote a letter, telling the landlord about Friends of the Family and how we really deserved their support.

I didn't hear anything for quite a while, and then I received a phone call from the landlord to let me know that they were going to put up a beer tent at the Fulflood Fete on Oram's Arbour and would make a donation to Friends of the Family for every pint sold. Fingers crossed for a sunny day and lots of thirsty customers.

It was a lovely day and, although the queues for beer weren't enormous, there was a good demand. When the fete ended, the landlord said they would continue to raise money for the rest of the weekend at the three pubs they run. A week or so later, he called at my house with a cheque for £575! I was glad I wrote that letter.

Members of the Winchester Community Choir like myself, are invited to nominate a charity of their choice for a share of the takings from our concerts. So, I wrote a letter and last Christmas we were one of the two charities reaping the benefit of our Christmas concert; a sell-out. Colette eventually came to one of our rehearsals to receive a cheque for £900, worth writing a letter for!

The most recent letter was to Kate Morgan, who directed the Clifton Singers. She was also asking for charities to support, so I wrote her a letter and on the 21<sup>st</sup> May there was a concert at St John's Church in Winchester called Musical Mayhem which raised the impressive sum of £1,300 for Friends of the Family. Unfortunately, Kate suffered a severe stroke before the concert date but the singers were determined that to go ahead, and sang superbly for Kate's sake, and for us.

Times are hard for small charities like us and as a committed volunteer, I know how important it is that we continue the work that we do, offering hope, encouragement, company and friendship to families who really need us. I will seize every chance I can to write a letter, it can really pay dividends.

**By Iris Gould, Under 5s Volunteer.**

You know the saying...

**“One man's trash is another man's treasure”**

...well how true it was on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the Worthy Road Carboot Sale. On this beautiful sunny Sunday morning (thank goodness!) Friends of the Family volunteers raised a whopping £1099 from combined pitch money and a stall laden with donations! Our many thanks go to Winchester City Council for selecting us for this wonderful opportunity and to the stall holders who generously donated their pitch money to our worthy cause. Also our gratitude goes to all the volunteers who got up VERY early to help haggle and barter with the generous folk of Winchester to sell the wonderful donations that had been provided by Friends of the Family supporters.



## Tandem Bike Ride for FOfF!

Daughters of retired Play Leader Susan Thomas, Hannah Hawkins and Rebecca Thomas have crazily decided to ride their tandem bike from Winchester to Lands End to raise funds for Friends of the Family.

They will start this epic journey on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and hope to complete the 250 mile journey in a maximum of five days!

If you would like to support this event then you can make a donation through Han and Bex's webpage on the "JustGiving" website

[www.justgiving.com/Rebecca-Thomas1](http://www.justgiving.com/Rebecca-Thomas1)

**GOOD LUCK GIRLS and THANK YOU!**

The work that we do at Friends of the Family is illustrated beautifully by one of our Mums in this poem. She has kindly given us permission to share it in order to describe what Friends of the Family means to her and it became the centre piece of our latest AGM.

"I have a mother who gave birth to me, but I have no mother.  
I have a father who helped my mother conceive, but I have no father.  
I have siblings filled with rivalry, but I have no siblings.  
I am crying all of the time, but I have no tears.  
I have married a man and bore his child, but I have no husband.  
I have a child whom I love more than life, but I have no example.  
I have given every moment I could, but I have no time.  
I have been beaten, but no time to heal.  
I have hope in a future, but have nothing to believe in.  
I have been bad, but never forgiven.  
I have provided everyway a mother, but I have no money.  
I have been happy, but not for too long.  
I am too weary to ever be strong.  
I am tired of the cheaters and lies, but I have no sleep.  
I have been so many things, but am only more afraid.

Maybe this is the moment this is my chance?  
Maybe after all this time it's my time at last?  
Maybe there'll be thunder and I will be strong.  
Maybe I have the will to carry on.  
Maybe I am closer to what I was most.  
Maybe I deserve it? But that I'll not boast.  
Maybe I have found it, no judgement this time.  
Maybe I will get there and all will be fine.  
Maybe there was strength in my hope after all  
Maybe I am getting up after my fall  
Maybe she's an angel and looks out for me.  
Maybe I protect her just as it should be.  
Maybe it's with guidance from friends of the family."

