

Scheme NEWS

Home
Start

Support and friendship
for families

www.homestartlorn.org.uk

Newsletter from Home-Start Lorn

Date: April 2010

NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 01

Homestart-Lorn is proud to announce a new half yearly **newsletter**. We intend to keep the community and supporters informed of Homestart-Lorn's ongoing activity within the Lorn area.

After a few weeks at the Art Group we have seen a number of the families gain enough self-confidence to attend other groups such as The Toy Cupboard and Mums and Tots Playgroup.

What does Home-Start Lorn Do?

Home-Start believes that children need a happy and secure childhood, and that parents have the key role in giving their children a good start. Home-Start wants to see a society in which every parent has the support they need to give their children the best start in life. We therefore focus our support on the early years of a child's life, the most crucial time in a child's development.

Our trained volunteers assisted by co-ordinator Aileen Binner, provide practical support and friendship. This support helps build a family's confidence and helps them to cope. Volunteers provide one to one home-visiting support on a weekly basis.

Argyll & Bute Volunteer of the Year

Everyone at Home-Start Lorn was overjoyed when **Irene Harrower** was chosen as **Argyll and Bute's Volunteer of the Year**.

Have a look at our Website

You can find our web site at:

www.homestartlorn.org.uk

Here you can find useful information about support, volunteering, how to make a referral and how the scheme is managed.



Photo: Irene Harrower on her recent trip to South Africa meets Andisiwe, a Homestart child

Ongoing Work

Homestart-Lorn are currently supporting **14 families** with a total of **40 children under the age of 3 years**. Over the past 12 months some 28 families have been supported and have benefited from the care and energy our trained volunteers give. In partnership with Community and Learning Regeneration we have also been running an Art Group with a free crèche for Home-Start families.

Irene, who has been a Homestart volunteer for 15 years was also awarded the Sargus Memorial Prize (£1000 in travel vouchers), in recognition of the tremendous work she does for Home-Start. Irene was in shock when the announcement was made and insisted that she does no more than every other Home-Start volunteer.

Irene, who runs a Bed and Breakfast so inspired a holidaying family from South Africa telling of her work with Homestart that the *daughter*, armed with all the information given by Irene, started up a Homestart Scheme on her return to South Africa.

New Volunteers ready to go!

Four new volunteers have recently completed their induction and pre-service training and are ready to be allocated a family with whom they will work on a one-to-one basis. As families are already experiencing a certain amount of stress, a great deal of thought goes in to 'matching' the right volunteer with a family. Our experienced co-ordinator, Aileen does an excellent job in matching up volunteers with families, ensuring that a good relationship can develop between everyone involved.

Would you like to Volunteer?

Homestart-Lorn is always looking for new volunteers, who have the time to offer help, friendship and support to young families for a few hours a week. If you are a parent or grandparent, can spare the time, and are interested in finding out about how you can be involved, then contact our co-ordinator Aileen on **01631 566749** or e-mail to

homestartlorn@btinternet.com

Aileen will tell you how you can help and answer any questions you might have.

Burns Supper Fundraiser



Photo: Guests at the Burns Supper, Benderloch

Alex Needham, of The Waterfront Restaurant, kindly offered to cater for a Burns Supper fundraising evening in January. This was a tremendous success. The meal was excellent and a special mention must be made of Carole's meringues. Young George Needham, Alex's son, gave a confident and earnest recitation of Burn's

"Address to a Haggis." Iain Anderson and Robert Conner, from Dalavich, proposed the toasts to The Immortal Memory and The Land We Live In, respectively. The Toast to the Lassies was made by Campbell Cameron, and Joy Cameron gave an equally humorous reply. They were a great 'double act'. The singers on the evening were Gordon Lockhart, Janet Ferguson and some of Janet's pupils. Thanks to the generosity of Alex, his staff and many others we raised the wonderful sum of **£1,000**.

Getting it Right.

Earlier in the year co-ordinator Aileen and Chairman Bob Clarke attended an Argyll and Bute Council consultation in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls which looked at the areas of social need in Oban, Lorn, wider Argyll and the Islands. The purpose was to make sure that Council money was being best utilised in supporting the community. Obviously Argyll and Bute Council want to make sure that their money gets to where it is needed.

What came out of the consultation was interesting. The group present, some 40 people made up of representatives from local voluntary organisations, agencies and statutory authorities decided that the top priority for direction of funding was **Support of the Community**. The most urgent issue was **Health and Wellbeing**. These are both fundamental objectives of Homestart.

The areas which were considered to have high priority included children, young people, and where preventive work was ongoing. There was very high concern for work that addressed drugs and alcohol, homelessness and mental health. All that we heard emphasised that Homestart-Lorn has an important role in safeguarding a positive future of local children by helping them have a healthy upbringing.

Commendation from a supported local Homestart Mum

'I think Home-Start is a fantastic organisation. My volunteer was wonderful, she was extremely supportive and in the months that I was very depressed she was a God Send.'

If you would like to be a supporter of Homestart and receive regular information about fund raising events then please **contact Aileen on 01631 566749** or e-mail to homestartlorn@btinternet.com