

# Home-Start Cambridgeshire



April 2019

## Dear Supporter

Now well into our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the staff and trustees are very grateful to everyone who has supported us recently through spreading the word, volunteering to become an ambassador, donating to the cause or in any other way.

The past few years have been particularly challenging, but we adapt our approaches and services as necessary to ensure families across the county continue to be supported.

The Valentine's concert in February was a very special and successful event and raised over £1400 for the charity. I am so grateful to the Lepetit Ensemble for their excellent performance and support.

The trustees held an awayday on a Saturday in March where the agenda was long and comprehensive, looking at the way ahead and completing a review of the Board's work, using the Charity Governance Code as the framework for discussion.

Sadly, our Project Manager, Kathy, is again on sick leave and we miss her skills, enthusiasm and experience. Marney, our Volunteer & Marketing Manager, has kindly offered to increase her hours to help the team to manage in Kathy's absence.

Beccy, who has been working on the Comic Relief funded Hand in Hand project for 2 years is now on maternity leave. Our best wishes go to her and her family.

To cover the on-going work successfully, I am enormously grateful to everyone in the team for pulling together, filling gaps where needed and generally contributing to the success of Home-Start Cambridgeshire.

With very best wishes

**Jo Studdert, Chair of Trustees**



As you read this, Easter will be fast approaching and hopefully it will feel like Spring has sprung.

We are already into the fourth month of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and we have been doing lots to let everyone know! One thing we have been working on is to increase our presence on social media and so, if you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook and like and share our posts. The more we get the message out there, the more people will know about the amazing work Home-Start Cambridgeshire does to support families. Which leads nicely onto our volunteer ambassadors - we have recruited more than 10 already and you can help us to make our target of 30 by joining the team. Ambassadors can help to raise our profile across the county by attending or organising events, giving talks, raising funds - all you need is a passion for Home-Start.

In this edition you will be able to read more from our long serving volunteers Sue, Meg and Imogen, as well as from Helen who was involved in Home-Start as a volunteer and trustee. It is a true testament to the work we do, and the dedication of the staff and trustee team, that volunteers stay with us and want to support us as their own circumstances have changed over the years. We are truly grateful.

Enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and please feel free to contact us for more information.

**Sam Nightingale, CEO**

## “30<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising update”



Pictured are four of the volunteers

We have five intrepid volunteers trekking The Great Wall of China to raise money for Home-Start Cambridgeshire.

The event in September is drawing closer and Team China are out there building up their stamina and fundraising for us.

If you feel you would like a bit of adventure yourself but don't want to go all the way to China you can register your interest in joining our Fire Walking event which we are hoping to organise for later in the year.

### Our Big 3-0 campaign is gathering momentum and we really need your support

3000 donations of £3

300 donations of £30

30 donations of £300

1 donation of £3000

- £3 – could contribute towards books and resources needed to improve a child's Readiness for School.
- £30 – could enable a Family Support Volunteer to provide 1 month of vital support to families across Cambridgeshire
- £300 – could fully train a Family Support Volunteer to provide emotional support to mums experiencing post-natal depression
- £3000 – could fund a Family Support Group for families experiencing mental health concerns, isolation and low self-esteem for 6 months

If each person reading this gave what they could and then persuaded one other person to donate it would be a significant step towards reaching our target.

Ways to donate:

- Visit our website (<http://homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk>) to donate at a click of a button.
- Send in a cheque made payable to Home-Start Cambridgeshire (clearly marked with The Big 3-0 campaign) on the back.

**Thank you for your support**

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# Four Acre Trust Match Funding Opportunity



## Supporting Families — Double The Impact

The Four Acre Trust have again selected us to participate in their Match Funding campaign.

Donations of £500 or more, received **before Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September** from anyone who hasn't given previously, will be doubled!

This will be a tremendous and much-needed boost to our funds. Last year, we raised £21,000 through this campaign, allowing us to train and support new and existing volunteers and most importantly, extend our reach to more families with young children facing difficulties.

**But, we urgently need your help.....**

Your first hand experience of Home-Start Cambridgeshire, how staff and volunteers work together to support and make a difference to families, will speak volumes to a potential new donor.

Please act now! Pass on the details of this opportunity to anyone you know, perhaps a business or organisation you have a contact with. Alternatively, call our office or email [caroline.abraham@homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:caroline.abraham@homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk) if you have someone in mind but prefer that we make contact.

Unfortunately, money raised through events will not count for this match funding but please do what you can by talking to and passing on news of this great opportunity to friends, associates and business contacts.

Thank you for your continued support.

I first became involved with Home-Start Cambridge & District (which has since become part of Home-Start Cambridgeshire) in 2007 after hearing a piece on Woman's Hour about the national charity. This was a very opportune moment for me because my four children were all growing up fast, I had a bit more time and I was missing the company of all those babies and toddlers. The thought of being able to use some of the experience I had gained bringing up my family and as a primary school teacher in such a practical way really appealed to me. I contacted the local office in Cambridge and enrolled for the next Home-Start Volunteer training course.

Over the following seven years I supported many different families facing a large range of different challenges: some trying to cope with housing or financial problems, some with mental health problems, some with relationship breakdowns or sudden bereavement, some with multiple births and some feeling isolated or lacking confidence in themselves as parents. By visiting a family each week, you become part of their lives and share the joy of real milestones in their children's development. It was such a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to help to think up the best ways to support the family - it's such a simple idea - "One parent helping another parent through a difficult time", but it works so well when we have the structure and guidance of Home-Start.

After a few years I also became a trustee for Home-Start Cambridge & District and after a while became Vice-Chair of Trustees supporting Jo Studdert in her role as Chair. It was often daunting for us to have ultimate responsibility for governing the charity but we all worked as a team and supported each other combining our various career skills and life-experiences.

I think my biggest contributions to the Board involved the time I spent thinking up ways to raise public awareness of the charity and sourcing different ways to fund-raise - including grant applications and organising fund-raising events, especially our legendary fund-raising ceilidhs!

I was very sad that my time as a volunteer for Home-Start had to end quite suddenly when my family circumstances changed and I needed to support elderly parents but I look back with great fondness to those years. I am proud that I have played a part in a successful charity which now celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year. **Congratulations Home-Start Cambridgeshire!**

Helen Tye



Children who attend our Cambridge Group went on a Bear Hunt!

Imogen has volunteered for us for 11 years; here is the second instalment of her story.

*"Being a Home Start volunteer has meant I have had to learn different ways to help families. Getting Autism training was one example. There are difficult times; I had a mum disclose domestic abuse and having to stop going to a family as social services decided the children would be better off in care. But going into families with Home Start is what keeps me wanting to volunteer as I see the difference it makes. It seems a simple idea but it has a huge impact on the families and especially the children. Some examples of the impact within the families vary from giving mum the confidence to feed her twins outside the family home to assisting a family to get the weekly food shop when both parents have learning difficulties."*

As part of our 30th anniversary hear more from Imogen in our next newsletter.



## Support Home-Start Cambridgeshire

When you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk),  
Amazon Donates

Visit [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

### Do you shop with Amazon?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com.

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organisation of your choice.

#### To choose Home-Start Cambridgeshire:

1. Sign in to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. Go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to **Change your Charity**
3. **Search for** Home-Start Cambridgeshire and select.



**The Giving  
Machine™**

You can now find Home-Start Cambridgeshire on **The Giving Machine**, a great fundraising site that lets you raise donations for Home-Start Cambridgeshire whenever you shop online.

It's easy to use and doesn't cost you (or us) a penny! The Giving machine is a fundraising charity set up to help other charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via **The Giving Machine** you will generate a free cash donation for us. There are over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, Ebay, M & S, Next, Thomas Cook, Sainsbury, John Lewis & Partners and Waitrose & partners,

To start raising free donations go to

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/home-start-cambridgeshire/> and join.

You can also download a free desktop reminder app

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/shop-and-give/login/>

Meg has volunteered for us for 29 years; here is the second instalment of her story.

*"I have visited families from very different social and ethnic backgrounds. I have met some delightful children and befriended some wonderful parents over the years and it has been a privilege to be accepted into their homes. At the end of my visit I've received some very touching Thank You cards which I still treasure. The reason I have continued so long is because the needs of families have never changed."*

As part of our 30th anniversary hear more from Meg in our next newsletter.

We were very sorry to learn that Mary Byam-Cook, one of our volunteers, recently passed away. Mary volunteered with us for four years and in that time supported several families with her compassionate nature, non-judgemental attitude and practical advice.

Her passion for supporting families was recognised by a donation to Home-Start Cambridgeshire of £1,565 donated by Mary's family and friends. Thank you to everyone who donated at this sad time to help us continue to offer support to Home-Start Cambridgeshire families.

### Could you become a Friend of Home-Start Cambridgeshire?



In our 30th anniversary year could you become a Friend of Home-Start Cambridgeshire? Our Friends receive information from us such as newsletters and details of up-coming events in return for a regular monthly donation.

A regular donation helps us to plan support for families. The form is on the back page of the newsletter.

**Thank you for your support**

Sue has volunteered for us for 11 years; here is the second instalment of her story.

*"Volunteering with Home-Start I have met such interesting people I would never have come across otherwise. Although families might have had particular difficulties, they were all trying their best for their children in difficult circumstances and clearly loved them to bits. They made me very welcome so that I felt at home on my visits. I grew fond of the children and their parents so it was hard to say goodbye at the end of my time with them.*

*I now also volunteer with the local Food Bank and recently a lady in a head scarf came to the centre and greeted me like a long-lost friend and it took me a minute to recognise my Syrian refugee family. She flung her arms round my neck and asked when I was going to go and see their new home in Trumpington. What a lovely surprise!"*

As part of our 30th anniversary hear more from Sue in our next newsletter.



Do you know anyone who can spare a little time to make a huge difference to family who needs support?

Preparation Courses for new volunteers starting soon!

An advertisement for the 'Skip of Gold' competition. It features a yellow skip filled with various items, including tools and toys. The text reads: 'SKIP OF GOLD WIN £1000 to help fund a community project or sports club with the Mick George Skip of Gold competition'. The Mick George logo is at the bottom left, and the skip has 'MICK GEORGE 0800 587 3329' written on it.

**SKIP OF GOLD**  
**WIN £1000**  
to help fund a community project or sports club with the **Mick George Skip of Gold** competition

**MICK GEORGE**

We have been shortlisted for the Mick George Ltd 'Skip of Gold' £1000 grant, organised in conjunction with The Hunts Post.

Please vote for us by visiting:

<https://www.mickgeorge.co.uk/huntsgoldvoting>



## Valentine's Fundraising Concert

Outside it was a cold, wet and windy evening but music lovers arrived to a warm and cheerful atmosphere in the Pavilion Room at Hughes Hall, Cambridge. Valentine's-themed helium balloons decorated the room and there was a heart shaped chocolate on each seat, setting the mood perfectly for the concert. This was performed by The Lepetit Ensemble: Ute Lepetit-Clare and Jessica Lawrence-Hares, two accomplished mezzo-sopranos, accompanied by pianist Marie-Noëlle Kendall.



In the first half, Ute and Jessica immediately stunned the audience with their amazing voices, giving a wonderful performance of a range of more formal pieces by composers such as Brahms and Handel.

During the interval, prosecco and soft drinks were served, generously sponsored by Woodfines Solicitors. There was also a raffle with an array of fantastic prizes, including wines, chocolates, theatre tickets and restaurant vouchers, donated by various sponsors.

During the second half we were treated to another selection of songs on the theme of love. Ute and Jessica gave a playful and highly entertaining performance of several pieces from opera and others from musicals such as West Side Story. These even entailed frequent costume changes to portray the character of each role! Following a long and enthusiastic ovation at the end, the audience was delighted to see Ute and Jessica reappear and round off the evening with two more short pieces.



We are immensely grateful to Ute, Jessica and Marie-Noëlle for giving us their time and talents and to all the other donors who helped to make the evening a success, including Woodfines and Hughes Hall. Thanks, too, to staff, trustees and volunteers who helped to organise and were present at the event.

Maggie, Home-Start Volunteer

## We are on Facebook!

Please 'Like' the Home-Start Cambridgeshire fan page by typing into facebook: [Homestartcambridgeshire](#)



**We would like to remind all our volunteers that it is not permitted to become Facebook 'Friends' with the families who you support.**

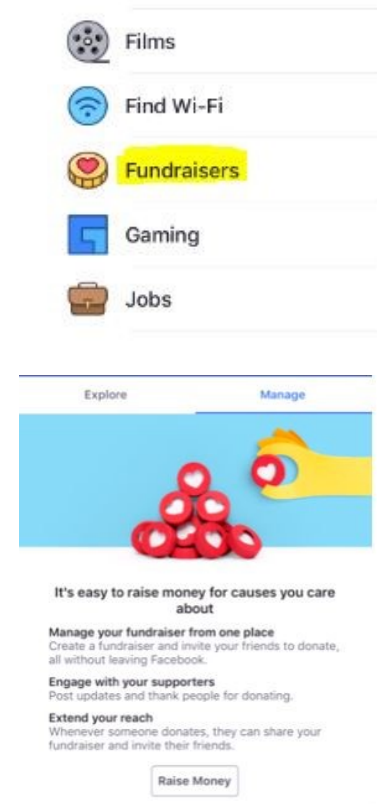
**This could potentially put both you and the family you support in a vulnerable position.**

**Please speak to your co-ordinator if you have any queries.**

## Will you be celebrating a birthday?

Facebook is a great way to connect with friends, family and the wider world. It is also a great fundraising tool.

When your birthday comes around you can set up a birthday fundraiser – it takes less than 5 minutes. If Facebook doesn't ask you automatically two weeks before, you can go to the settings tab (the three lines, bottom right of the app) and find the fundraisers option.



Click on manage, then charity and put Home-Start Cambridgeshire into the search.

There is information pre-loaded but perhaps you could add why you personally want to support us? Set an amount and then the post will share. The money automatically finds its way to us, so all you need to do is thank your family and friends for celebrating your birthday by supporting us.

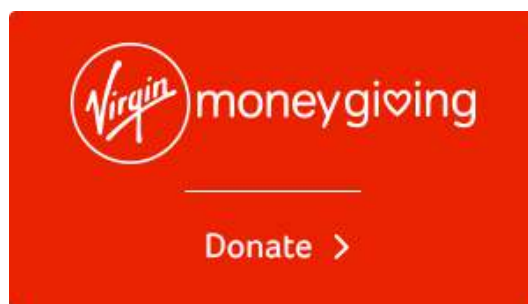


We are very grateful to the following companies and organisations for recent donations:

ARM  
Cambridge Building Society  
Cambridge Central Aid  
Chatteris Feoffee Charity  
Comic Relief  
Ely St John School  
iTransact  
Jesus College  
Mary Byam-Cook Memorial  
Woodfines LLP



PLUS INDIVIDUAL AND ANONYMOUS DONATIONS



We have received support from the  
 Cambridge  
Community  
Foundation



I would like to set up a standing order of:

£2 per month

£5 per month

£..... per month (please enter amount)

or £..... annually (please enter amount)

I would like to receive the Home-Start Cambridgeshire newsletter and information about other events for Friends of Home-Start Cambridgeshire.

My email address is: .....

I understand my details will never be passed on to third parties.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL DETAILS BELOW:

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**BANK Standing Order**

To the Manager of \_\_\_\_\_ Bank plc

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on the account: \_\_\_\_\_ A/c Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment details:

On the \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ please pay the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_, and thereafter at monthly / annual intervals to **Home-Start Cambridgeshire** until cancelled by myself in writing.

Please quote my name as the reference when making this payment.

Please pay CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40-52-40

Account Number: 00089891

Please quote reference: Home-Start Cambridgeshire

Your authorisation

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

I am/am not a UK taxpayer, eligible for Gift Aid. (*delete as necessary*)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this form to:*

*Home-Start Cambridgeshire, F103/F104, Upper Pendrill Court, Ermine Street North, Papworth Everard, Cambs, CB23 3UY*

15/1/2018(8)