

Situated in the heart of Kent, Greenfields house and school provide year-round specialist care, education and treatment for up to 10 children aged 5-13 years.

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 and is pictured on the left.



Pictured on the right, The Gables is a residential therapeutic community and special school next door to Greenfields for up to four children aged 11-18 years. They specialise in the treatment of children and young people with problems as a result of attachment difficulties rooted in early life trauma and abuse.

Kent Friends' Committee

Sarah Scarratt, Chair - Catriona Prest, Secretary
Marylyn Bacon - Susie Christian - Sarah Dean
Catherine Deptford - Deirdre Massey - Amanda Petch
Natacha Russell-Woods - Nikki Taylor
Holly de la Nougeréde (Head Office)

Recent Events



In October 2014, 48 people joined us for a bridge evening at Rolvenden Village Hall where, as well as some great bridge, we offered our guests wine, canapés and a delicious supper.



There was a raffle and many great prizes. The event raised a fantastic **£4080**.

In December 2014, 12 people attended our wreath making day and once again Amanda Taggart and Claire Dunning from Jolly Lovely gave their time to give an expert demonstration.

In true Christmas spirit **£955** was raised. Our thanks to Peregrine and Deirdre Massey for speaking and hosting the event in their barn.



Our **Grateful Thanks** to all those who have made donations and been involved with fundraising:

✚ Elaine and Angus Lloyd Trust donated **£1,500**

✚ JF Charitable-Sunley **£1000**

✚ Benenden Tennis Tournament raised **£1000** in 2014 and **£1000** in 2015

✚ March 2014 - Westwell Pub Quiz Night **£232**

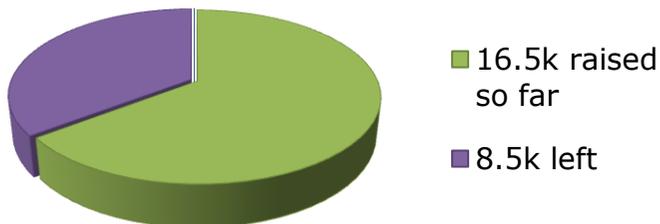
✚ October 2014 - Bridge Evening **£4080**

✚ December 2014 - Wreath Making **£955**

✚ **General Donations £944**

All this hard work means we are even closer to reaching our target for the refurbishment of the playroom at Greenfields.

Playroom Target



Dates for Your Diary

Vintage Bridge Tea

Tuesday 26th January 2016

Enjoy an afternoon of bridge and a delicious tea from 2-5pm at Benenden Village Hall.

Contact Amanda Petch for information on amandahpetch@gmail.com

Tickets £15

Drinks Party at The Merchant Taylors' Hall

Monday 14th March 2016

A drinks party will be held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in London, by kind permission of The Master of Merchant Taylors' Company

It will feature The King's Men, who are the choral scholars of King's College, Cambridge.

Drinks and Canapés will be served from 7.00 to 9.00pm

Contact Holly de la Nougerède on events@childhoodfirst.org.uk

Tickets £45

Anton's Story

Anton's mother and father separated when he was a baby and his father gradually withdrew from his life. As he grew, Anton was also emotionally and physically rejected by his mother. His bedroom was a tiny room with no windows, little more than a cupboard. He received no love, warmth or care. Humiliatingly, school had to provide him with breakfast, a shower and fresh clothes every morning. He was taken into care when he was 13.

Because he was so troubled, he came straight to us. Our experience of him was that he was angry and destructive. He could show no emotional warmth, and was cut off from his peers. We focused initially on providing a safe, emotionally containing home, full of the warmth and love he had never known. Only an expert therapeutic home can safely offer such a disturbed and disturbing child the attention and warmth which every child needs.

Therapy began more specifically to address the trauma of Anton's neglect. Together with the warmth and containment of home life, and the relationships he began to develop with others, Anton began to feel that he might matter to other people. And this allowed Anton to begin to feel that his life might also matter to him.

Anton's violence and destruction decreased. He developed the ability to enjoy and communicate a wider range of emotion. He began to attend education in our therapeutic school. Education was always a struggle, but Anton eventually completed his GCSEs and went on to college to study mechanical engineering. When he left us at 17, Anton went into semi-independent accommodation and completed his college course and further studies. He is now working, enjoying life and is independent.

Greenfields Playroom

Below you can see images of the current playroom which needs updating and repairing....fundraising by the Kent Friends and at Childhood First head office means projects like this can take place. You can also see the result of fundraising in a Bike Track, educational toys, the new school block and new kitchen and dining room!

Gables Extension

The Gables, our newest community, opened in October 2012, can currently support up to four young people aged 11-18 years. We would like to expand this community, adding a further seven bedrooms so that we can support eleven young people. There is so much need for the type of support we offer, and we are only one of three therapeutic group communities in the country.



Fundraising

We generate donations from **charitable trusts, statutory funders, individuals, legacy donations** and **major donors** in Kent.

We also look to local companies for support and for individuals to participate in challenge events, (marathons, cycle races and skydives) for us.

If you are interested in supporting childhood first in any of the capacities detailed above please email events@childhoodfirst.org.uk

Letter from the Chair

Dear all,

These are exciting times for our homes in Kent with the target for the refurbishment of the playroom at Greenfields getting ever closer, as well as further expansion planned for The Gables.

Special thanks to those who have taken part in events organised by the committee and their able helpers and to those who have organised events and given the proceeds to Childhood First and not forgetting the generosity of charitable trusts and private donors.

With best wishes,

Sarah Scarratt

Sarah Scarratt
Childhood First Trustee





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