

At the beginning of May we have 10 children and young people with us, with room for 2 more 10-14 years olds at The Gables and 2 more 5-13 years olds at Greenfields.



The Gables



Greenfields

How fundraising can help: Creating a Gables Classroom Block.

Childhood First is planning to create a classroom block,. By separating the education, and delivering it in a separate space to the residential community, we are enabling the young people to compartmentalise the different aspects of their lives, focusing on their education when in the classroom, and other areas of their lives while in the residential community.

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Charity No. 286909

Our Lead Committee:

- Sarah Scarratt, Chair - Catriona Prest, Secretary - Marylyn Bacon - Sarah Dean - Deirdre Massey - Amanda Petch
- Natacha Woods - Holly de la Nougeréde (Head Office)

Recent Events

Magic Evening



On Monday 3rd June 150 guests were invited to an evening of entertainment kindly hosted by Tony and Diana Hope. There was also the chance to explore their beautiful gardens in Kent.

Afterwards, guests enjoyed a glass of wine and some canapés. Bertie Pearce, a member of the magic circle, put on a fabulous show creating a lot of laughter and astonishment at his tricks. £5,923 was raised!

Aquarelle Evening



In the lovely setting of Godinton House in Kent, on the evening of 23rd November, music was played by one of Britain's leading chamber music groups, the Aquarelle Guitar Quartet.

Guests were able to enjoy the music, as well as canapés, drinks and a raffle.

The evening raised £2,459

Our Grateful Thanks to all involved in:

- + The Magic Evening raised £5,923**
- + Aquarelle Evening raised £2,459**
- + Marlborough House School raised £4,483**
- + Broughton House Joke Day raised £1,151**
- + Benenden Tennis Tournament raised
£2,300**
- + Legacy from William Brake Trust raised
£1,000**
- + Donation from Westminster Under School
raised £3,159**
- + The Incognitos concert at Eton raised
£423**

*The Grand Total since the formation of
the Greenfields Friends Group in 2011
is £59,000*

Dates for Your Diary

Bridge Evening

Friday 10th October 2014

An Autumn Bridge Evening and Supper at Rolvenden Village Hall, TN17 4ND

Drinks will be served from 7.30pm, with the Bridge game starting at 8pm

Tickets £30

Wreath Making

Friday 5th December 2014

To get you into the Christmas spirit a wreath making event will take place, with a chance to see a demonstration, as well as take part. You will also be able to enjoy lunch, coffee and cake

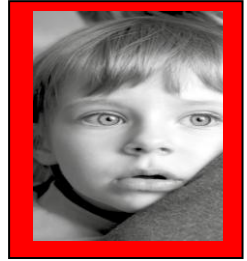
Tickets £65

To be hosted at the barn of Peregrine and Deirdre Massey, with demonstrations given by Amanda Taggart and Claire Dunning of Jolly Lovely.

Sporting Events

- **London Marathon 26th April 2015**

Case Study



Martin was born into a family where both parents suffered mental illness. After the birth, he was transferred to a psychiatric unit with his mother, so that she could receive treatment for severe depression.

Martin then went into foster care for eight months.

Martin lived for four years in an environment dominated by drug use, domestic violence and suicide attempts by both parents. He was sexually abused by his father. He developed emotional and behavioural difficulties, including extreme physical aggression.

Martin was moved into foster care at the age of four, but was repeatedly reunited with his parents, only to be sent back to foster care. Martin came to us aged seven, when no foster carer could safely manage him anymore. By then he had moved home 40 times in his short life.

Our initial experience of Martin was a very angry and physically aggressive little boy. He was unable to conform to any boundaries and would break his toys repeatedly. Our first challenge was to keep Martin, and everyone else in the home, safe. On the basis of our developing relationships with Martin, as part of the structured daily round of community life, we were then able to begin the painstaking work of piecing together an understanding of his inner world and working therapeutically to heal him.

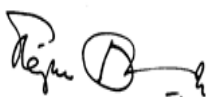
As a result of sustained and expert therapeutic attention, Martin was gradually able to integrate his experience of himself and others, and to articulate and process what had happened to him. In a loving community, he began to develop the capacity for trust and for hope. Martin's physical violence diminished as his ability to put feelings into words increased. He began to be able to accept adult reassurance and praise.

Martin left us at age 10, ready and able to cope in a residential special school, where he could mix with a wider group of children and be looked after and educated in a less intensive environment. Martin is 15 now and is working towards his GCSEs.

Why we do what we do!

As you may know, we are a charity that undertakes uniquely, difficult work with some of the most emotionally and psychologically damaged children in the UK. These children have suffered appalling experiences, invariably of neglect and abuse. As a result of their behaviour and extreme feelings the children are terrified of what they will do, and of what might happen to them. Their fears are justified – without the specialist residential therapeutic help that Childhood First provides, the expectation is that such children will develop serious untreatable personality disorders and be condemned to a short life in and out of psychiatric hospitals and prisons. Once we have won their trust, the children show immense courage in working with us to make sense of what has happened to them and to repair the damage.

It is with great pleasure that I can confirm Sarah Scarratt is now a member of our Board of Trustees, whilst serving in this crucial governance role she will continue her role as the Chair of the Kent Friends Group.



Stephen Blunden
Chief Executive



Appeal Update

It has been intended since its development in 2012 that The Gables would be expanded to enable us to provide an additional 5 places. Because our children's homes operate in therapeutic communities which behave and feel much like a large family it is essential that our communities grow gradually. This is to enable the all important therapeutic culture of our homes to develop, in sync with the increase in the number of children.

The culture has now developed sufficiently to enable us to undertake the expansion of The Gables. Our plans include building an extension to the current house to provide an additional 5 bedrooms. The extension will also provide the additional floor space that will be required with an additional 5 children, including a larger dining room, games room, TV room and sitting room.

We are nearing the end of the preparation stage for the appeal, architects plans, structure charts and a detailed case for support have now been developed and we will be fundraising over the next two years to raise the necessary funds.

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



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