



**Childhood
First**
healing
hurt
minds



Issue 7
Autumn 2018
Kent Friends'
Newsletter



A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

As we see out a truly memorable summer, I am pleased to introduce the 7th edition of the Kent Friends newsletter, looking to the future of Childhood First and upcoming developments.

It has certainly been a busy summer with work well underway at The Gables residential community.

Kent Friends Committee

Sarah Scarratt – Chair
Catriona Prest – Secretary
Susie Christian
Deirdre Massey
Amanda Petch
Bridget Griffiths
Natacha Russell-Woods
Amanda Taggart
Joanna Hancock

In addition to four new children's bedrooms, the extension will include additional space for sleep-in staff, who are vital to providing the 24/7 care required; and a new communal area, which can be used by the residents for recreational purposes and to improve community cohesion.

Special thanks to all those who have taken part in any of our recent events, to all the able helpers who have made it possible to run them and not forgetting the generosity of charitable trusts and private donors.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Scarratt".

Sarah Scarratt
Trustee

Childhood First

Childhood First provides crucial rehabilitation, educational and therapeutic support to some of the most vulnerable children in the UK – many have suffered psychological and emotional abuse, neglect and trauma. Childhood First's mission is to transform the lives of young people so that they can relate well to others, fulfil their potential, and enjoy life to the fullest.



Greenfields House and School

Situated in the heart of Kent, this residential home provides year-round specialist care, education and treatment for up to 10 children aged 5-13 years. We help children at risk of a lifetime in and out of the justice and psychiatric systems, as a result of neglect and abuse.



The Gables

The Gables is a residential therapeutic community and special school next door to Greenfields, for 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.

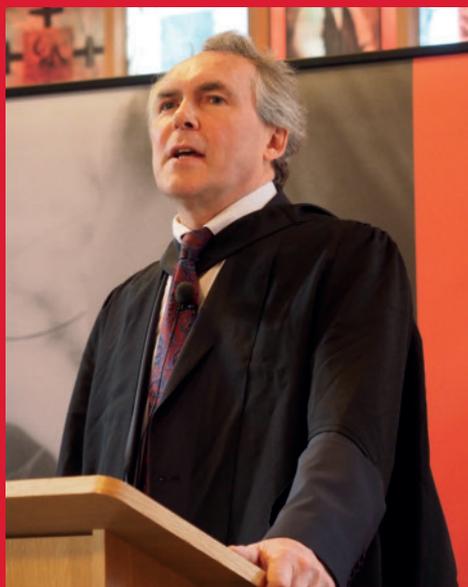
News & highlights



Graduation Day

On 18 July 2018 The Institute of Integrated Systemic Therapy held the first graduation ceremony for students who had completed their iST Diploma and Practitioners Diploma training.

Childhood First's unique and effective therapeutic approach is called Integrated Systemic Therapy (iST) and has been developed over 40 years to meet the needs of children and young people suffering serious emotional and behavioural disturbance. Our therapeutic training program in which all care staff participate is clinically accredited by the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP). This means all the children in our care are looked after 24/7 by accredited psychotherapeutic health care professionals.



“Students from the Kent and Norfolk communities came to the graduation event at Southwark Cathedral, Garry Weston Library, London Bridge.

“The ceremony was opened by Stephen Blunden CEO of Childhood First, with a final address by Jennie McNamara to close the ceremony.

“We were joined by trustees and community directors in acknowledging the achievements of the students who are all also full time employees.”

Barbara O'Reilly, Institute Director – Training, Research and Practice Development



Fundraising Report



It is wonderful to be able to report that crucial building work on the additional bedrooms at The Gables is almost complete! This will allow Childhood First to double the number of children they are able to provide these unique therapeutic services to. Work is due to be completed this autumn, with the first two extra children arriving by spring 2019.

This does not mean all will be quiet at Greenfields House. We are delighted to have raised more than £12,232 following a series of successful events and some generous donations between October 2017 and March this year. Some of this will be used to fund a new play frame for the garden. An important part of the children's care is

providing them with the space to play, exercise their imagination, develop social skills and interact with one another in an enjoyable setting.

Now we focus on raising funds to extend the old utility room at Greenfields. Since it was built, capacity at the community has increased and staff require more space for the cleaning and drying of children's clothes, as well as for the two fridges currently kept in there.

They are also in need of a new bike shed for the children's bikes, scooters and the pool table. The current one is now over 10 years old and very leaky! These projects will cost around £23,000.



Events report

Saint Ronan's Ball October 2017

Huge thanks to Saint Ronan's School who made Childhood First a beneficiary of their autumn ball! Jojo Hancock was given the opportunity to say a few words and was delighted to be able to mention the developments at the charity, including the expansion of the Gables community. Bidding was fierce in the auction, especially for some generously donated tickets to see Little Mix in concert!

Following this event Sarah Scarratt and Peregrine Massey were invited to speak on behalf of Childhood First at the end of term assembly in December. Total proceeds from this glamorous evening were **£2,840**.



Rye Ladies Golf Day March 2018

Sarah Scarratt, Susie Christian and Catriona Prest alongside Nikki Twallin from Head Office were delighted to attend Rye Golf Club's annual Lady Captain's Day on 15th March. Thanks to Sara Hurst who chose Childhood First as her charity for 2018. In addition to ticket sales, a fantastic raffle was put together by Nick Hurst and we received lots of generous donations. Funds raised totalled **£3,211**.



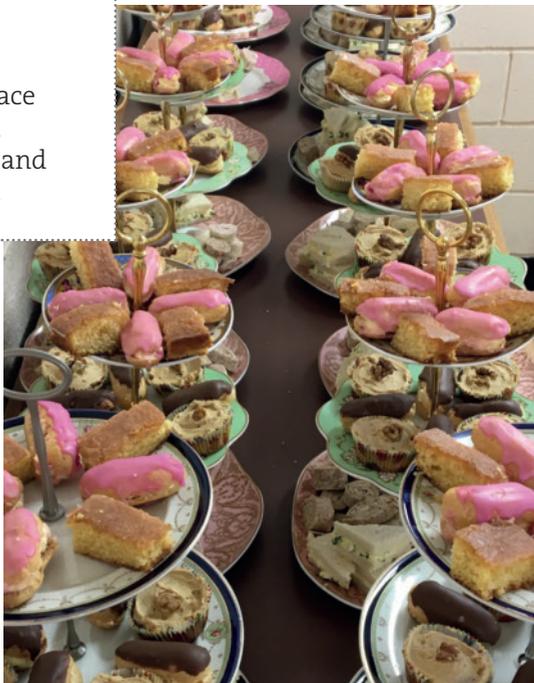
Wreath Making Day December 2017

On Friday 1st December, 15 people attended our wreath making day. Once again Amanda Taggart from Jolly Lovely gave her time to give an expert demonstration assisted by Alison Streeter. **£845** was raised on the day and our thanks go to Peregrine and Deirdre Massey for hosting the event in their barn.



Vintage Bridge Tea January 2018

This popular competition took place in Benenden Village Hall on 26th January. There were cakes galore and an amazing raffle, raising **£1,183**.



Literary Laughs Book Quiz December 2017

Once again this year's sell out event was held at The Lime Wharf Café, Bodiam Boating Station. It raised a fantastic **£1,888.22**.

Get involved

We receive donations from generous individuals as well as from trusts and foundations.

We are also appealing to local companies for support and to people willing to participate in challenge events, (running, cycling or skydiving to name a few!) or host events of their own.

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



Dates for the Diary

Official launch of The Gables extension Autumn 2018 (date TBC)

Literary Laughs Quiz Thursday 6th December 2018
@ The Lime Wharf Cafe, Bodiam Boating Station

Wreath making Friday 7th December 2018, Headcorn

Vintage Bridge Tea Spring 2019 (date TBC)

Ways to contact us

Phone: 020 7928 7388

Email: events@childhoodfirst.org.uk

Visit: www.childhoodfirst.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChildhoodFirst

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ChildhoodFirst

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/childhood-first

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