

# HAND IN HAND

Befriend a Child's Volunteer Newsletter  
January 2010

A big **hello** and a very Happy New Year (and Happy New Decade for that!). The January edition of Hand in Hand is upon us, albeit a slightly shortened one to account for the two week festive shutdown here at Befriend a Child. But don't worry—there will still be plenty to report in the February edition, and don't miss the chance to catch up on the photos from the very successful Christmas Party at the Copthorne Hotel on page 3 of this newsletter.

## TAKING CENTRE STAGE — The Panto Report

(By Befriender Susan)

"I booked tickets for this year's Panto through my Social Committee at work. As we buy multiple tickets from the Box Office, and as I am the person allocating them, I made sure myself and 'A' had really goods seats - five rows from the front in fact!

On the day of the Panto, I picked him up and he thought he was going to the Arts Centre, as he had seen shows there before. So, you can imagine his delight when we turned up outside HMT !!!!!

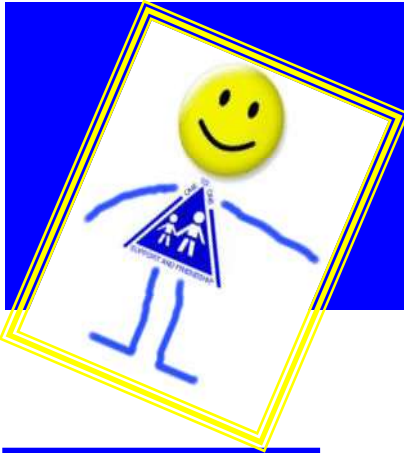
I had heard from a friend that they took one child up on stage during each performance, so whilst I sent 'A' off to collect our 3-D specs from the woman at the back of the theatre, I spoke to the usherette working nearest to us and asked if it would be possible for him to go up, if he wanted to of course. So she waited until he came back, then came over and said "Fairy Mary, Cinderella's Fairy God-Mother, needs a child to help her with some magic later on. Will you go up on stage and help her?" He looked at me for my approval and I said "It's up to you but you don't have to do it".

He said YES right away.



When he was taken up on stage, he was asked whether he had any pets, and he gave them the name of his foster parents' dog RUBY. This was then used as the Magic Word for the rest of the performance, and we all had to shout this out every time Fairy Mary cast a spell. For going up on stage, 'A' received a Panto Bear. He came back to his seat beaming with joy. Later on in the show, the pair of us got soaked by the Ugly Sisters with their Super Squoosher Water Pistols, which just added to the fun.

So with the 3-D bits, the funny songs, the soaking, the half-time ice-cream and the Panto Bear, we both had a fabulous time and I'm so pleased that he got the extra treat of getting up on stage in front of everyone. We'll definitely be back next year.



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## A BIG Thank You

### Hello & Goodbye

Hello to

Deborah  
Roy  
Susannah  
Lindsey  
Ikemma  
Brian

Goodbye to

Denise  
Louisa

Befriend a Child would like to take this opportunity to wish our former Chairperson Denise Mowat and husband Mike all the very best for the up coming birth of their first child.

As well as serving on the committee, Denise has also been a volunteer with us for the best part of a decade!

Denise ended her time as a befriender at the end of last year after a fantastic nine years with the organisation—we are extremely grateful for her commitment and effort which we know was a huge source of enjoyment to her and to her befriender.



A Very Happy Birthday to the following staff and volunteers who celebrate a January birthday:

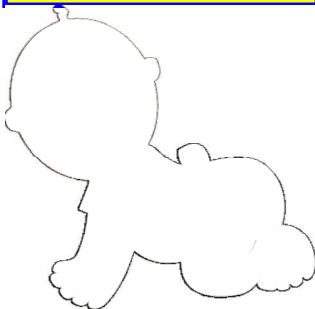
|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| CAROL     | 3rd              |
| ELAINE    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> |
| LYNNE     | 15 <sup>TH</sup> |
| REBECCA   | 16 <sup>TH</sup> |
| VALERIE   | 17 <sup>TH</sup> |
| JILLIAN   | 24 <sup>TH</sup> |
| CATHERINE | 28 <sup>TH</sup> |

### Inventive Ideas and Creative Concepts

Volunteer Bev will continue to provide a range of fantastic group sessions throughout 2010. The latest session in the Base Unit was our Christmas Arts and Crafts which went down extremely well with all those who attended.

We are extremely grateful to Bev for giving up her time and are really looking forward to seeing what she comes up with for the next 12 months!

If you or your befriender have any suggestions for group sessions then please let us know and we can pass the ideas on to Bev.



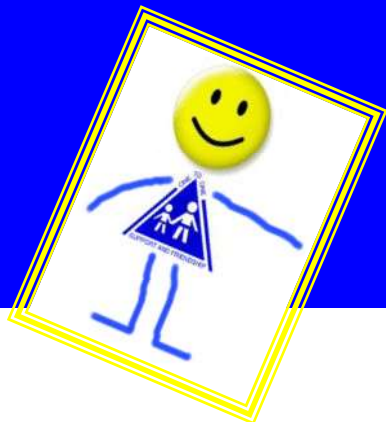
**Befriender** Lynsey had a wee boy on the 28th of November, named Louis Noel. Louis weighed in at 8lbs, 4 ozs and is doing well. Mum has reported a new level of tiredness she didn't know possible however!!!!

### Budding Designers?

For those of you who have used the Base Unit, you may have noticed that the rooms would benefit from a little decoration. So we are looking for inspiration for possible designs for both the TV room and the Arts and Crafts room.

Ideas could include favourite cartoons, computer games or film characters. Please encourage your befriender to have a say—it's their Base Unit after all! Let us know by emailing [duncan@befriendachild.org.uk](mailto:duncan@befriendachild.org.uk).

And Be Creative !!!!



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## I Wish It Could Be Xmas Every Day!

The annual Befriend a Child Christmas Party at the Copthorne was a huge hit on Sunday, December 20th with one of the biggest turnouts ever enjoying the usual mix of party games, food and fun! Alan's Magic were once again on hand to keep the youngsters (and adults)

entertained with everything from a magic silk handkerchief trick to a visit from a bird, all the way from Brazil!

The group then enjoyed a tasty two course meal of turkey and trimmings followed by ice cream and fruit.

And of course it was then rounded off with a visit to see Santa and his elves, who did a fine job in distributing gifts to all the young people.



Duncan and Elaine the elves, helped Santa to distribute his sacks of presents to the youngsters.

### Birthday Gifts

Due to a large number of gifts donated to Befriend a Child over the past two months, any volunteers looking to give their befriended a birthday present is advised that they should check at the office for something suitable prior to buying a gift as expenses will NOT be refunded for this.

**For more information call Jean at the office on 01224 210060.**

Befriend a Child has partnered with Happi6, a unique Lucky Numbers Game to raise much needed funds. Every ticket purchased gives you 3 chances to win a major top prize of between £10,000 and £60,000 and fixed cash prizes between £7.50 and £2,500, all for a 75p ticket.

When you play the Befriend a Child Lucky Numbers Game, 30% of every ticket you buy will come direct to us, and you get multiple chances to win prizes!



Simply play our game then tell your friends about it! Visit the site below or CTRL-click on the logo above.

<http://www.happi6.com/befriendachild>