

Competition winners

Congratulations to Lucy, Alex, Alizsha and Fran who won vouchers for a day out.



Please colour the picture below and return to Debbie Cross at Blackpool Project by end of May for a chance to win some fabulous prizes.



Blackpool Project

NEWSLETTER

Working together to support
children and families in Blackpool
SPRING 2004

- Childrens clubs timetable
- Parenting groups
- Competition

In partnership with Blackpool Borough Council, Youth Offending Team,
SureStart, Children's Fund and the Youth Justice Board


Barnardo's

NORTH WEST

GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Blackpool Project Newsletter that keeps you up to date with latest news, views and activities in Blackpool Project.

In this issue we have a report on the Dads Support Group, Volunteer meetings and a great Easter colouring competition with a chance to win some fabulous prizes.

This is a magazine for the Project and if you use our service, have a child that comes to our clubs, act as a volunteer, or support children & families in Blackpool through another organisation we would love to hear from you. Photographs, short articles, views on the Project and comments or suggestions on the newsletter would all be welcome. Please email blackpool.project@barnardos.org.uk or ring Debbie on 01253-626480.

Thanks

Debbie Cross

John Hesketh

Contacts list

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Barnardo's vision is that the lives of all children and young people should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination

Our purpose is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfil their potential.

Thanks to Arnold School, Waterloo Road Methodist Church, Marton Methodist Church and several individuals who donated Christmas presents to the Project. We received over two hundred presents which were handed out to children and families in Blackpool that the project work with.

Picture gallery

Front page Mathew, Emma, April, Katie and Lauren building 'junk' structures at St Pauls Childrens Club

2&3
Junk modelling. St Pauls childrens club held every Wednesday from 4.00pm – 5.55pm during school term time.
Clinton, Laura, Andrea, Andrew, Jade and David

4&5
Parenting group

6
Parenting support group making Christmas crackers



Web site goes live

On 22nd December 2003 the web site recently built for Barnardo's Blackpool Project went up online and can now be viewed at www.barnardos.org.uk/blackpool

It contains some detail on the work of Barnardo's in Blackpool and, in particular the four separate teams that make-up the organisation's staff. The Project now:

- works with children and young people believed to be at risk of getting involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
 - supports young parents and their children as part of the Sure Start Project for Grange Park (Teenage Support)
 - provides or enables access to leisure & learning opportunities for 5-13 year olds and their families, (Outreach & Leisure Team)
 - work with the parents & carers of children at risk of not reaching their full potential (Personal Support)
- The site gives more information on:
- what we do
 - how we could help your family or



those known to you

- how we've helped others
 - work of other agencies active locally that could offer specialist support in particular circumstances
- Project staff are hoping that the new web site will help raise awareness & develop local understanding of the organisation's work in communities across the Borough, encouraging families and professionals in the field to get in touch and find out more about what we can do for them.

Contact details, guidance on the referrals process for individuals and organisations, and volunteer opportunities also feature.

The site can be viewed at Libraries across Blackpool but advice on how to get online and find the site can be given by telephone on request. Graeme Neale and John Hesketh would be best placed to offer you help in any difficulties you encounter and their number is Blackpool 626480.

You can help – and win a prize!

This is your newsletter and so that we can make sure its easy to get hold of, fun to read and a useful source of information on activities that have gone before as well as those planned for the months ahead we would like you to tell us how you think we're doing. Suggestions on what you would like to see included – articles on/photographs of local project work; competitions; features on Government initiatives and their implications where relevant to families

in Blackpool; a letters page; sections on our work in different parts of Blackpool; and useful phone numbers could all be put in over time. You might not like the current format or you might want to see other things altogether.

Please let us know your thoughts by writing to:
John Hesketh,
Outreach & Leisure Team
Barnardo's Blackpool Project
16, Bennett Avenue, Blackpool, FY1 4DP

You can also get in touch with John by email on blackpool.project@barnardos.org.uk or by phone on 01253-626480

Everyone that responds will be entered into a free draw for Pleasure Beach tickets and the winner will hopefully be shown in our next newsletter.

A day in the life of – Heather Card – Project Worker for Personal Support Team.

07.00	Wake up, crawl out of bed.	Wash, dress, drink my tea. Think about the clients to see.
08.00	De-ice the car, drop off daughter.	Driving up the motorway, Heavy traffic every day.
08.30	Into the office, greet the team.	Check the mail, e and paper. Make some calls, 'Phone back later'.
09.00	Bennett Ave., prepare for group.	Group comes in, good to see. Settle children, brew some tea.
10.00	Run the group, work real hard.	Parents learning, staff elated. Good response, much debated.
12.00	Finish group, review/reflect.	Listen to the parent's issues. Hope this week we won't need tissues.
12.30	Time for lunch, if we can	Dashing out, grab a butty. Time to shop? You'll be lucky!
13.00	Back to work, on the phone.	Return those calls check the list. Not an organisation missed. Contact clients for home calls. Non-attendees? Check them all.
14.00	Now's the time for the records!	Fire up the computer, hope it runs. Update the files, gee what fun!
15.00	Out of the office, visit client.	Find the home, call and chat. Some visits easy, others not.
16.15	Back to office, time to plan.	Reflecting on the day that's gone. Planning for the day to come.
17.30	Out of office, back in car.	Heading home, should I shop? Personally, I'd rather not!
18.00	Home at last, check the mail.	In the kitchen making tea. A glass of wine would just suit me.
19.00	Time for tea – and family.	Listen to the families chat. Just chill out and play wi' cat.
21.00	Decision time – work or play.	Write a paper? Check the net? Watch the box – that's better yet.
22.30	Up the stairs, time for bed.	Wash off the grime, put on the cream. Let's read a while before we dream.
23.00	Off with the light, head hits the sack.	Time for sleep, we are no fools. Still following Barnardo's rules!

Dad's Support Group

In early October last year the Project's brand new support group for Dads & male carers got started at Bennett Avenue; and since then it has been meeting on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 and 9.00pm. Their programme offers:

- the chance to meet with friendly staff from Barnardo's and other local organisations who can provide information & advice on a range of subjects including benefits, childcare, learning for fun, parenting and training for employment
- access to leisure activities for group members (and their families from time to time) – sport and trips out for example
- opportunities to spend time with other Dads and carers for conversation over a cuppa, fun and mutual support - finding time away from their family situations at home to relax and properly rest from their demanding responsibilities as parents & carers

Help with childcare and transport is also being offered in positive support of Dads and male carers from Blackpool wanting to access the group.

Since the group started they have received support with benefits applications from Advice Link; completed short taster courses in assertiveness, basic DIY, behaviour management at home, confidence building, computers and the internet; received information on childcare and visited the cinema.

Looking ahead to the Summer term they are talking about engagement with a community arts project and talking with the Arts Development team at Blackpool Borough Council about:

- the possibility of putting on a

project at the new City Learning Centre on Grange Park and this could involve work with the Digital Artist in residence; there would be group access to a Broadcast/TV Studio, Digital Cameras, Lap Tops, Macs and PCs and this could centre on music production, video making or web design for example

- linking the group with Claremont Players and working towards a production
- a creative industries workshop-set intended to give those with an interest in games development, sound engineering and/or TV production for example the chance to find out more about the training and career pathways open to them in their fields
- the ArtExtra project and its possible presentation of opportunities to get involved in sculpture
- the possibility of doing a piece of work with one or two of the community groups/voluntary organisations featured in the Blackpool Arts Directory and/or Film Festival

Whatever their choices the Summer looks like being one filled with fun for Dads, male carers and their families. And there'll be more reported here on their experiences in forthcoming issues.

Looking back on the group's first half year, Project Worker with the

Outreach & Leisure Team, John Hesketh said 'We aim to give access to the support needed to avert crisis at home; enable their rest, relaxation and development of new friendships; and give

them chances to have fun doing things they enjoy'.

Here are some comments by Dads who attend the group.

'My son is now 10 years old and his behaviour has improved since we joined the parenting groups run by Barnardo's'.

'My son has been through a lot in his life and I know we have challenges ahead, but with help from specialised agencies like Barnados those challenges can be met by us and not just dumped onto the streets and blamed on 'society'.

'I enjoy coming to the Dads Group to meet other Dads in my position'

'I find the group meeting helpful & informative'

'The chance to learn from others and from those visiting is good. It breaks up your week but gives you worthwhile stuff to take away'

New members are welcome to join the rolling programme at any time and are regularly given opportunities to input on and help shape the planning process.

For more information on the Dads' Support Group contact John Hesketh on Blackpool 626480. He would be happy to hear from you and answer your questions. Otherwise just come along to Barnardo's Blackpool at 16, Bennett Avenue (off Palatine Road and near to Blackpool & The Fylde College) on a Wednesday evening for 7 o'clock.



What is Every Child Matters?



Since the murder of Victoria Climbié, the Government has been exploring how new technology can better identify children at risk. This, the first in a short series of policy reviews in your Barnardo's Blackpool newsletter, talks about the new Green Paper, Every Child Matters.

When Social Workers called at the home of Victoria Climbié in the last weeks of her life, no one answered the door. They assumed the family had moved. In fact, the appallingly injured eight-year-old was almost certainly only a few feet away, tied up in an unlit and unheated bathroom.

At least a dozen agencies had data that, in retrospect, show Climbié was being mistreated. But no one put the big picture together until she was dead.

Would better Government IT systems have saved the little girl's life? Probably not. But modern, joined-up information systems might have given her a chance. Hence the emphasis on IT and information sharing in the Government's official reaction to the case, a Green Paper endorsed by the Prime Minister.

Every Child Matters, the Green Paper published by Government in September and centred on children at risk, proposes urgent steps to help councils set up shared electronic databases of every child in their area. For the first time, every child will have a unique government ID number (probably the NHS number). The idea is that if a child comes to the attention of one agency, for example by missing school, other agencies will automatically be informed.

The Government acknowledges that the proposals are likely to be controversial. The Green Paper invites views, for example, on whether information about parents' criminal records or drug problems be available on the registers.

The system would show up anomalies that humans might not notice: it would flag up if a child is known to social services but does not have a current educational record. (This alone might have helped Victoria Climbié; no one apparently noticed she was not attending school.)

To test the technology, the Government is funding 15 councils as 'identification, referral and tracking' trailblazers: first results from these projects will be available by the end of this year; the Green Paper says. 'By the end of 2004, we aim to set out how the lessons from the trailblazers can be reflected across the country.'

The Green Paper says that the Government is still open to persuasion, particularly on questions of privacy.

And what about having our say? The paper asks for views on obstacles, what information should be kept, how information should be shared and when.

Barnardo's nationally concluded that talking to children, young people and families was an essential part of ensuring the proposals outlined in the Green Paper can deliver something real. On visiting the Blackpool Project before Christmas workers from Headquarters met parents and they were keen to focus on the role of Social Workers. For them the most important thing about a worker is that they are kind, caring and respectful. In addition parents wanted a super-worker to be 'on the case, not on my case' and providing 'the right sort of help and common sense'.

Some of the parents wanted 'charity support rather than social services, social services don't work'. Parents wanted workers who could recognise their strengths and the strengths of their family 'supporting you – a pat on the back'.

Where to now?

The Government is currently in the process of assimilating feedback and deliberating on the comments received back. It will make provision for legislation at the earliest opportunity but in the meantime public enquiries can be made to 0870 000 2288 or by email on info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Timetable of Childrens Clubs

If you are aged between 5 and 13 years and would like to attend one of our clubs please ring Graeme Neale on 626480. ALL CLUBS ARE FREE AND HAVE NO ENTRANCE FEE!

DAY	START TIME	END TIME	VENUE
Monday	4.15p.m.	6.00p.m.	Marion Methodist Church
Monday	4.15p.m.	6.00p.m.	Bennett Avenue
Tuesday	4.00p.m.	5.55p.m.	Stonsay Day Centre
Wednesday	4.15p.m.	6.00p.m.	St. Peter's
Wednesday	4.00p.m.	5.55p.m.	St. Paul's Worship Centre
Thursday	4.00p.m.	5.55p.m.	Kincraig Day Centre
Friday	4.15p.m.	6.00p.m.	St. Peter's
Friday	4.00p.m.	5.55p.m.	Claremont First Steps
Saturday	12.00 noon	1.55p.m.	Ibbson Court Day Centre

St Pauls childrens club

Wednesday 4.00pm – 5.55pm

Katie Pasqualino and Andrea Morris are both Community Beat Officers in Blackpool for Claremont Ward they are also volunteers for Blackpool Project and volunteer at St Pauls Worship Centre group which runs on Wednesday between 4pm and 5.55pm. They were instrumental in setting up this group and here is their account of working with Barnardo's

One of the first issues that we came across in our role was the lack of organised activities for children and young people in the Claremont ward, which resulted in bored Claremont kids.

Many issues had to be overcome such as how to set up an activity, funding for the group, getting experienced childcare workers to help facilitate and keeping the activity in the Claremont area, venue for the activity

The Vicar of St Pauls agreed to let us use the worship centre as the

venue for the activity club and Graeme Neale from Barnardo's agreed to provide the staff and equipment funded through the Children's Fund.

Support was gained from the community by recruiting people to become volunteers at the activity session. Posters and leaflet drops were made and distributed to advertise the activity session.

The activity club started on Thursday 1st October 2003 for children aged 6-13. One room provides arts & crafts while the other room provides fun games.

10 kids started the group the first week and by week 3 it had doubled to 20 kids.



Steven, Bev and Charlotte – junk modelling

Children in the community at first used to shout across the street hey you, you ***** wannabe's as the kids saw us as pretend police officers. It has now progressed to the kids approaching us in the street and using our names and even building junk models together as seen in the photographs on the first page!

The hope is to start another club in another part of the very large Claremont Ward. Watch this space for details!