

Farewell



After the best part of ten years committed service it is with great sadness that we have to say farewell to Gillian Lunn. After a stint as Trustee responsible for volunteers she was soon persuaded to take on the role of Chair. During this period The Family Haven went through some difficult times and it was largely thanks to Gillian that we managed to weather the storm and come out the other side, stronger than before. When Gillian stood down as Chair she took on the onerous position of being Lorraine's line manager (not an easy task). She will be missed by everyone but none more than by Lorraine.

Do you shop online?



We currently have 32 shoppers who use Give as You Live to raise donations for us whilst they shop online – at no extra cost to them. But we need more help! Since 2012 they have raised nearly £200 by using the Give as You Live site or shopping toolbar to find bargains at Argos, Amazon, Sainsbury's, Etsy and more. Thousands of online retailers will donate a small percentage for purchases made.

In the last couple of years, I have been able to raise money booking our holiday cottage with Sykes Cottages (£21.03), hiring a car with Europcar (£3.89), buying school uniform at Asda (48p), ordering mother's day flowers via Bunches (94p), sending

birthday cards from Moonpig (33p), buying birthday gifts on Etsy (£1.06) not on the highstreet (50p) Green & Black's (28p), shopping for groceries with Tesco (8p), plus numerous Amazon purchases (£1.33). That is a total of £29.92 – and there were a few other random purchases too.

We try to use it here for purchases as well. Last year we bought the furnishings for the parent's lounge at Argos and raised £19.89.

Many businesses do much of their purchasing online. Perhaps you have a company or work for one that orders their printers & ink, business travel, computers, office furniture, stationery and more online. Popular stores at present for businesses include Apple, eurooffice, plusnet, amazon, Viking and 123.reg.co.uk.

If you'd like to try Give as You Live to help support us, but don't know where to start, please do call and I'll help you get going.

To see how it works and start shopping go to <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/thefamilyhaven>

Debbie Nevin
Fundraiser
01452 528692
Debbie@thefamilyhaven.com.

Like our **facebook** page

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Welcome



A warm welcome to our new Trustee Louise Williams. Louise is the Project & Business Development Officer at The Nelson Trust. She will bring a great deal of expertise.

Sainsbury's Vouchers



Help our kids to eat well, move well and live well by donating your Sainsbury's #ActiveKids vouchers to us. Thank you.

Become A Friend

Why become a Friend? As a Friend of The Family Haven you will be supporting the trustees and staff in helping provide the services our families so desperately need. Your regular subscriptions and offers of voluntary help are invaluable and support us in delivering our aims.

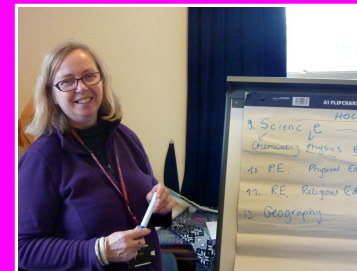
Call 01452 422971 for an application form or download it from <http://bit.ly/YtnESd>



THE FAMILY HAVEN

Helping vulnerable families to a brighter future for 25 years

More mum's attend our English Classes



Caroline from Adult Education

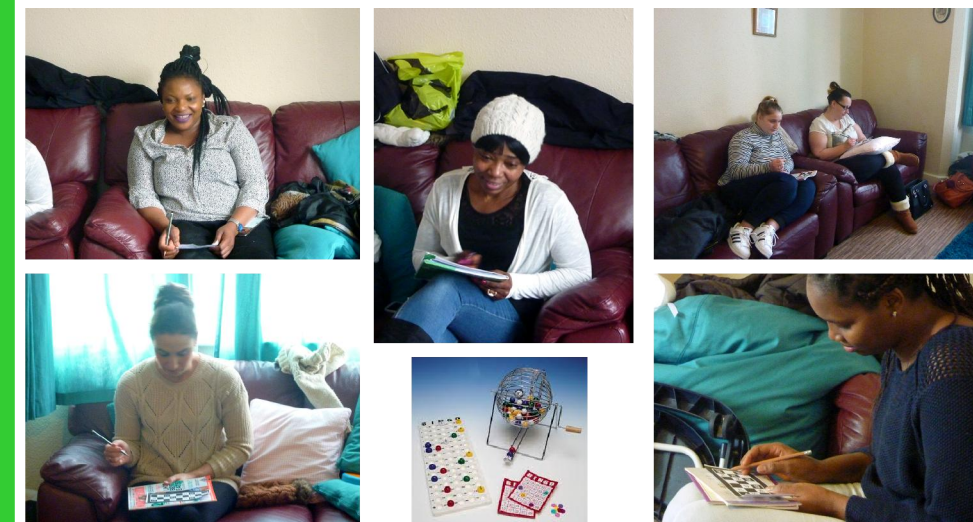
Our English classes are proving a success. We have gone from 3 mums to 8 mums. Unfortunately the last class will be ending on the 7th March 2016 which will be the date the funding ends. The mums are not looking forward to the classes finishing. Their reading and writing skills are improving. Hopefully they will be able to continue their lessons some where else. The improvement in their English helps build up their confidence and aids their communications with our other parents.



Our mum's enjoy an afternoon of free Bingo



Lucy, our Outreach Family Support Worker entertains our parents with an afternoon of free bingo. Some of the parents have never played bingo and have enjoyed the afternoon. For our mums whose first language is not English they welcome the experience of learning the numbers. They have asked Lucy if she would be able to play bingo again. So we have now tried to have a couple afternoons a month. Although bingo may seem frivolous, it has a real feel good factor and helps the new parents to come out of their shell.



Newsletter

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Vacancy—if you are interested in becoming a Trustee we have a vacancy, please contact us.

The Family Haven
A company limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity No 1088622

31 Spa Road, Gloucester
GL1 1UY
Telephone: 01452 422971

E-mail:
info@thefamilyhaven.com

Christmas Party Days 2015



Due to the number of families we are supporting we had to have two Christmas party days to ensure that no one was left out. The children played games in the nursery whilst their parents tried their luck on the Christmas raffle. We served 29 parents and 34 children over the two days. A good time was had by everyone. We would like to say a big thank you to our cook Chazz Mercer for the wonderful Christmas feast. Thanks also to Santa who took time out of his very busy schedule to put a smile on the children's faces.

We could not make this possible by ourselves. Thanks to the efforts of our ever increasing number of volunteers and supporters we were able to make it a day to be remembered for parents and children alike. Our most sincere thanks goes to everyone who donated their valuable time, food, gifts and financial support.

We can not emphasise enough the difference that these acts of kindness make to our families, it enables us to give everyone a gift to open on Christmas Day. In many cases these gifts will be all they will have to open on Christmas morning!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The children always enjoy trying their hands at baking

Some of the children try their hand at making pizza rolls, fruit kebabs and cupcakes. They always enjoy themselves when it comes to baking. The best part, of course, is in the eating of all the goodies they make.



Learning & fun times Our families enjoy a trip to Roves Farm Park

The children enjoy making crafts, learning new things on the computer and like all children they love to play and have fun, especially the messy fun.



Some of our Nursery staff and families had a fantastic day out on the 27th October at the Roves Farm Park. The 20 adults and 29 children boarded the coach at 10:00 from the Family Haven. Everyone had a fun day. The children had a great time feeding and petting some of the animals, playing on the slides and in the soft play areas.

