

Lorraine Barrett Retirement Party.



Lorraine Barrett and John Price

We finally held our Centre managers, Lorraine Barrett's retirement party 15 months later than originally planned. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic all events had to be put on hold, but once restrictions were lifted, we knew it was the right time to proceed.

A smaller than originally planned event took place in The Family Haven garden with 25 guests, thankfully the weather was nice. In attendance were some of our previous trustees, staff and volunteers that had been a part of The Family Haven when Lorraine first started work back in 1993 as well as

current ones. A fabulous day was had by all catching up on old times and celebrating the end of an era. A highlight of the party was seeing Lorraine receive her gifts, a hand painted piece of pottery from her "haven family" as well as a keepsake ornament for her garden, a voucher to a local spa and an abundance of flowers!

The party was also an opportunity to say a big thank you to John Price, our retired chair of trustees, who has been with us since 2004 but had recently decided to step down from the position. It was lovely to see everyone together again after all this time and we wish Lorraine and John a happy retirement with the freedom to do all of the things they have been looking forward to.



Break in at The Family Haven

Unfortunately, we were broken into on the morning of the 17th of July, the same day of Lorraine Barrett's retirement party. The police arrived on the scene very quickly and managed to give chase but unfortunately the intruder got away. He did however drop all of the items he had intended to take so we now have those back. I'm pleased to say that despite the chaos, the party still went ahead thanks to the dedicated staff pulling together to make the building safe and was a great success.

Unfortunately there was a lot of damage to the building but it is limited to where he gained entry and a few areas that were forced open. The good news is that it has not caused disruption to our services. Sadly, this does mean a lengthy process of replacing the damaged items.



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to a brighter future
since 1988**

Inside this issue:

Young Gloucestershire	2
Eid Celebration Day	2
'Tour de Thanks' delivering a heartfelt thanks to The Family Haven volunteers	3
Parenting Report	4
Welcome to Ben Boulton	4
Leave a Legacy	4
Quote of the month	4
Be a Friend	4

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Young Gloucestershire



Today we had the opportunity to meet and play with the people of Young Gloucestershire. They have been working as a team to make money and donate to our Nursery.

When we arrived in the morning we were welcomed by a wide array of toys and activities laid out on the tables and in the garden. The Young Gloucestershire team were very inclusive and made sure each child had something they would like to explore and experience. We had a picnic out in the garden using a variety of fruits and healthy foods. After lunch we proceeded to play again and had some Disney theme music to sing and dance to indoors while outside was filled with footballs, bubbles, and Frisbees.

The money the Young Gloucestershire team had made was turned into toys for the children which they have been playing with today. The children enjoyed it thoroughly and thanks to the kind-heartedness of the Young Gloucestershire, they donated so many toys and books to our Nursery.



Eid Celebration Day



Celebrating Eid this year was a fantastic and informative experience. Everyone was very excited in the morning, putting up decorations and seeing all the different types of food parents were bringing in for this special occasion.

We started our morning with Henna hand painting on one table which one child enjoyed so much he decided to take off the henna and reapply 4 times! In addition, we had foam people decorating on another table, each child had a go making their foam people using pens/paint and glitter to decorate them. We had a selection of different Eid themed music playing in the background for the children and adults to enjoy. During our morning play session, we had a variety of educational stories and read them to the children to develop their knowledge on the festival.



Once we had reached the afternoon, we all went to the garden to celebrate and eat. The food selection was amazing! All chosen and brought in by the parents who happily let the children get involved in a food tasting activity giving them the opportunity to try a variety of new food. While outside we had brought in a speaker and got the music going again! Some parents, children and staff got up and started dancing to the Eid themed music, while others were laughing and eating and having a great time! The day itself was a great experience and it was amazing to see so many people enjoying themselves and communicating with one another.



'Tour de Thanks' delivering a heartfelt thanks to The Family Haven



Volunteers at the Family Haven have been rewarded with a special medal thanking them for all their hard work to help others during lockdown as part of a gruelling 1,000km charity cycle from Edinburgh to London. Paul Reddish, CEO of Volunteering Matters and his father, Paralympian swimmer and former Paralympics GB CEO Tim Reddish CBE completed the epic cycle ride on Monday 7 June handing out thousands of 'People's Medals' over the six-day, 100km trip as part of National Volunteer's Week (1-7 June).

The cycling group arrived at the Family Haven in Gloucester on Saturday 5 June. They were greeted by staff and volunteers at the charity who have been working hard during lockdown to support vulnerable families in need. The Bishop of Gloucester the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek attended the event to show her support. She said: "The Family Haven is a wonderful charity supporting some of the most vulnerable families in Gloucestershire. It was great to be part of this special event and witness the staff and volunteers receiving a much deserved thank you for all they have done throughout lockdown and a special medal to recognise the positive difference their work and support makes in communities."



Ryan Miessner has been volunteering at the Family Haven since 2019 and says that he enjoys being part of a charity making a huge difference to families lives. *Ryan said: "I decided to volunteer because in life, it is easy not to notice what goes on around you. To take a back seat and to let someone else do it. Volunteering for the charity has help me better understand the community I live in, to understand the diversity in people and the richness in cultures our city has. I am proud to be associated with The Family Haven and for what it stands. The support and engagement for our community The Family Haven gives is exceptional, and it is the staff and volunteers which truly make it a success".*

On Saturday, Ryan was one of the volunteers to receive a special edition 'The People's Medal' to those who have dedicated their time, skills, compassion, and support to help others. 'The People's Medal' comes in the shape of a beautifully designed pin badge from [#PinYourThanks](#), a volunteer-run campaign that has been given by tens of thousands of people to thank their own pandemic heroes and since launching last summer. As well as handing out pin badges and thanks, the Tour De Thanks will be raising money, which will go towards volunteering projects in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Donations can be made through the Just Giving page <https://justgiving.com/campaign/tourdethanks>

Paul Reddish says, *"There can be few brighter lights in the last twelve months or so than the everyday kindness we've seen from people. Volunteering is often talked about in terms of organised events or initiatives, but just as important are the small gestures which can make a big difference. I'm hoping to shine a light on all types of volunteering across the UK and raise some money for future volunteering projects."*

Lucy Pearce, the Centre Manager at the Family Haven said: *"Although his year has not been without its challenges, one thing it has shown us is what an amazing team we have here at The Family Haven. Everyone has pulled together to ensure that all of our families have been supported during an uncertain and unpredictable time. We're really pleased that the Tour de Thanks has chosen to stop at the Family Haven. It was a real boost to everyone here. Well done to Tim, Paul and the team on an amazing cycle ride!"*

For more information about the cycle visit www.tourdethanks.org

To find out more information about the Family Haven visit www.thefamilyhaven.com



Parenting Report



The parents have taken part in 5 weeks of parenting with subjects being covered including Accident Prevention, Potty Training, Healthy Eating, Feelings and Cot Death. All of the parents joined in with the discussions, asked thought provoking questions and shared their personal experiences.

Due to the centre being closed due to Covid the sessions planned on Debt management will be done in September. We are fortunate to have guest speakers Jacqui Harris from SevernWye Energy Agency and Rebecca Reho from The Debt Centre in Gloucester coming in to talk to the parents. Oriana Hernandez Carrion from Danone will also be doing an online workshop with the parents on healthy eating and lifestyles.



Parenting classes have been interesting this time as the parents were all in different rooms to enable them to stay in their 'bubbles'. This meant that sometimes the parents had one to one sessions and bingo was done with all the doors open and Gail standing on the landing shouting the numbers!



Leave a Legacy



Imagine the difference you can make

Did you know that legacies are a vital source of income for charities? To find out more about leaving a gift in your will we have a page on our website with information we hope is useful:

www.thefamilyhaven.com/how-you-can-help/leave-a-legacy/

Quote for the month

*"Inspiration comes from within yourself.
One has to be positive.
When you're positive, good things happen."*

Welcome



We would like to welcome Ben Boulton as our new Nursery Nurse. We are delighted to finally have a man in the nursery. It is great to see how the children interact with Ben. He is a great asset to our nursery and for the children.

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>



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