



Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2015 from all the trustees and staff - thank you all for the amazing work and support you have given families over the last year.

External Evaluation

We would like to say a **big thank you** to everyone who took part in the external evaluation by Steve Allman. We were delighted with the positive feedback we have received. And moving forward the report's recommendations have given us a real focus on how we can continue to develop and improve the service we deliver. A copy of the report can be seen on our website or a paper copy is available to read in our office.

Recruitment

We have run two very successful prep courses this year, in the spring and the autumn both have been very well received. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new volunteers, **Barbara, Sarah, Bridget, Heidi, Debbie, Amanda, Helen, Sasha, Claire, Debs, Liz, Natalie and Laura.**

We have a new volunteer preparation course starting on the 28th January 2015.

Do you have any family or friends who would be interested in training to become a Home-Start Volunteer?

We will be running the course in Exeter.

The course is held one day a week for 10 weeks excluding the school holidays.

Further information can be obtained from the office or look on our website.



We have recruited some new Trustees to join our Management Team, they were appointed at our AGM earlier this month. Our new Trustees are from a wide range of backgrounds, with a huge wealth of experience and expertise.

Volunteer Social Event - January 2015

With the busy lead up to Christmas we decided to have our volunteer social event in January to help brighten up the New Year. We are planning to run a craft session details to be confirmed shortly.

Waitrose Community Matters



We are delighted to announce that we have been chosen as one of the three charities to benefit from Waitrose Community Matters Fund, in their Exeter branch for the month of November. We will post the amount we receive on our website.

Welcome to our new Family Group Staff Members



Catherine Dunn

We are delighted to welcome Lyn Clotworthy and Catherine Dunn who recently joined our staff team as Play Leaders for the Family Group. The Group has now opened again and continues to run on a Tuesday and Thursday morning 9.45 - 11.45. If you are supporting a family in Exeter who you think may benefit from the additional group support, please speak to your organiser.



Lyn Clotworthy

Website

This year we launched our fantastic new website, where you can catch-up with our latest news and events, as well as access forms and information. Please contact us if you have problems downloading forms or if there is anything else you would like to see on there. We will soon be embarking on our new adventure into the world of social media!!! Keep an eye out for the Twitter and Facebook icons on the website. www.homestartexeter.co.uk

Home-Start UK - Snowflake Appeal

This month has seen the launch of the Home-Start UK Snowflake Appeal. The Appeal runs from 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015.



"It is important to stop and think about those families who have a very difficult time. For the last couple of years I have been working hard to raise awareness for Home-Start, a remarkable charity for which I have become an ambassador. Their Snowflake Appeal raises vital funds for the amazing work they do with vulnerable children and families. This is a fantastic organisation and whether you volunteer, fundraise, or make a donation there is no better thing to do for those children who won't have a good start in life."

Kirstie Allsopp

There has recently been some coverage in the Western Morning News about the Appeal and our article in particular focuses on Home-Start Exeter and East Devon and the Family Group service.

For further details of the appeal and for information about Home-Start UK visit: www.home-start.org.uk

Radio 4 - D for Dexter



A new BBC Radio 4 drama inspired by collaboration with Home-Start volunteers, staff and families, was broadcast in November.

D for Dexter is a powerful exploration of the pressures that can face families, highlighting how rapidly problems in the home can escalate if support isn't given early enough, or when parents become overwhelmed and find it difficult to ask for help. Home-Start UK's deputy chief executive Vivien Waterfield took part in a discussion on Woman's Hour on Monday (10 November) about the issues raised in the drama.

To Listen to the drama visit : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04p522x>