



NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

Young Carers

Spring 2011

Welcome to our *Spring* Newsletter

Young Carers “deserve more help”

Figures published by the BBC in November 2010 following their research into young carers suggest that there are four times as many young carers in the UK than had been previously officially recognised.

One in 12 of the 4,029 schoolchildren in secondary schools across the UK asked by the BBC said that they had a caring role, including dressing, washing or bathing family members.

The 2001 census identified 175,000 young carers but if the recent survey reflects the UK as a whole it would mean there are about 700,000 young carers in the UK.

Professor Saul Becker, Head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Nottingham, said that the survey pointed to a “**Hidden Army**” of young carers in the UK and was a “**wake-up-call**” to governments and carers' organisations.

However, campaigners, charity groups and young carers projects have been saying for years that the official figure of 175,000 is a vast understatement.

Maggie Atkinson, The Children's Commissioner for England, told the BBC child carers “save the state millions” and many of them “lose their childhoods.”

She said child carers who were having difficulty getting help should try to raise problems with their GP's or school staff.

Shadow Education Secretary, Andy Burnham, said it was “**absolutely crucial**” that young carers were identified and supported.

For further information on this report go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-1175709>

Care Services Minister Paul Burstow said, schools and GP's should help to identify young carers who required more support and Young carers “deserved a life”



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COMPETITION!

See Back Page!!

Hi, my name is Phillip Adams and I am 17 years old.

In October, I went to Khao Lak, in Thailand for two weeks to help in an orphanage called the Baan Thang Namchi Orphanage and it was a life time experience!

In Khao Lak there was a rescue ship in the middle of two houses which blew 20 feet across when the tsunami happened.

At the orphanage there are 67 orphans and the number is rising everyday. Some of the kids are from the tsunami in which many lost their parents. They are now in the orphanage and call each other family.

At the orphanage there are children aged from one day old to 18 years old.

While we were there we aimed to build a swimming pool and a water slide for the children and the good news is we **succeeded!** We went elephant riding with the orphans and took them river rafting which they really enjoyed.



I learnt a lot being out there and if anyone is thinking of travelling I recommend Thailand

I will be going back there next year.



(Phillip is a member of our senior council and will receive a £10 gift voucher for telling us about his wonderful adventure)

Hi, Its me Matilda

I'm talking to you all about all of the trips and meetings I have done so far.

My favourite trip was the wildlife park- I was really shy first time but I made some new friends and I loved seeing all the wild animals like the tigers and skunks and snakes—I was so frightened though!!!

I loved the Conference, "Who wants to be a millionaire? " Especially the quiz my table WON-yey!!!



Matilda at Shepreth Wildlife Park holding a python

I hope you get lucky for the lottery money I wish you lots of luck!!

I'm really excited about the Christmas party. I love bouncy castles and music. I hope I can make it.

I've had a great time with young carers, and hope to see you all again soon.

Matilda Aged 9

(Matilda is a member of our Junior Council and receives a £10 voucher for her lovely article and picture)

Members of the Young Carers Council were recognised for the contribution they make to their families in their caring role, and to the Young Carers Council.

Ellie, Chair of the Young Carers Council, was awarded:

"The Dame Marion Roe, DBE - Young Citizen of The Year Award"

The award was presented on a wonderful yuletide evening at the Civic Hall Broxbourne. The event was sponsored by the Borough of Broxbourne, and included a dance performance by Fusion, the Cheshunt based dance company.

Congratulations!



Ellie receiving her award from Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop (Mayor of Broxbourne) And Leader of Broxbourne Council Councillor Paul Mason

Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop (The Mayor of Broxbourne) who nominated Ellie for the award also invited Connor, 13 years old, to the Mayor's Parlour and presented him with a Community Service Award for his efforts as a young carer.

Councillor Mills-Bishop said *"What Connor and many others in the borough do is remarkable, taking on an adult responsibility with no thought for themselves. The Mayor's Community Award is richly deserved."*

The Young Carers Council meets together at least once a term, and more often when they are planning our Annual Conference. They also participate in consultations with other services and feed their views into the Hertfordshire Young Carers Strategy

The great work they do to promote young carers views through the Councils has been recognised by "Two Nominations"

They have been nominated and shortlisted for the *High Sherriff's "Crime beat Award 2011,"* and also nominated for, *"The Rotary RIBI Young Citizens Award."*

We are keeping our fingers crossed that these nominations are successful.

We will let you know in the next issue.....

WATCH THIS SPACE



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Ready for some JOKES!!

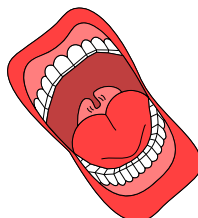
Q. What do you call a deaf dog?

A. Anything you like, he can't hear you

Q. How do you wake up Lady Gaga?

A. Poker face.

(Well done Emily you win a £5 Gift Voucher)



Q. Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?

A. It ran out of juice

Q. What did the parakeet say when he finished shopping?

A. Just put it on my bill.

(sorry Cindy, you don't get a voucher)

Tracheomalacia

For twelve years my brother Paul was diagnosed and treated as a brittle asthmatic. After yet another bout of pneumonia last year he was put under the care of Royal Brompton Hospital. Then, in October this year they diagnosed him with Tracheomalacia. This is very rare for children over the age of two. We believe that Paul is one of only ten children worldwide over the age of two with this condition.

Mornings are very difficult as Paul can't breath properly because his windpipe is all floppy, therefore, when he lies on his back his windpipe flattens. This means that in the morning he must take all of his medication to help him breath and to open up his windpipe. This makes the mornings very hard for all of us. He spends lots and lots of his time in and out of hospital. This had meant that my little sister Emily and I have to stay at our friend's house. This is really hard for us to complete homework on time because we won't have the same stuff as at home. I don't like to stay somewhere else I like to be at home with my family.

I feel really scared and worried sometimes because I don't know what is going to happen to him. Sometimes, I am really happy because Paul is OK and well enough to go into town or to sit and play a board game with me.

By Charlotte Age 13

A £10 gift voucher is on it's way to you Charlotte

Competition: Prizes, kindly Donated

Prizes

- 1st Prize Home Art Kit
(Create Contemporary Art at Home)
- 2nd prize Hasbro "Connect 4"

Just answer the following questions:

1. What is the name of the Children's Commissioner for England?
2. Where in Thailand did Phillip visit?
3. What animal did Matilda hold in the safari park?
4. What award did Ellie Win?

The first 2 correct entries received will win the prizes.

You can telephone us on 01992 586969

E-mail us on

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Text us on: 07917 186818

(Please put your name on the text)

Support for Young Carers

Working with schools and partners, to help identify and support young carers across the County is an important part of the Project's work.

Because of this successful partnership work, more young carers are being identified and supported in their schools, either by attending a young carer's support group, one to one sessions with a link worker, mentoring schemes or drop in sessions.

In addition, partnership work has resulted in more out of school groups to support young carers being set up in some parts of the County.

Although we know there is still a long way to go before every district can boast a young carers group, by working with partners we hope this gap will narrow.

If you do not know whether your school offers support for young carers, or if there is a support group near you then please contact us on **01992 586996**