

Christmas Shopping Night

Thank you to everyone – visitors and stallholders – who braved the gales and torrential rain to come to this year's Christmas Shopping Night. We had more than twice as many stalls as last year, and managed to raise a record total of £1039 on the night!

We also had a very special donation for our star prize raffle. Mrs Sandra Tobasnick won the Antonine Centre's Mother Day competition after being nominated by her daughter, Gail McQuade. However, Sandra decided to donate her prize of a Hot Diamonds gift set to a local charity, and with the help of Karen Johnston, the Centre Manager of the Antonine Centre, she selected Craighalbert to be the beneficiary.

Unfortunately neither Sandra nor Gail could be with us at the Shopping Night, but we were delighted to welcome Debbie Fannan (Sandra's daughter), Louise Tobasnick (Gail's daughter) and Albert Tobasnick (Sandra's husband) as special guests for the evening. Louise drew the star prize raffle, and all three, ably assisted by Karen from the Antonine Centre, drew the winners of the main raffle.

It was a great night, and we're already thinking about how we can beat our fundraising total at next year's event. Watch this space for details!

Fabulous Fundraisers!

Our fundraising friends at the Station Hotel in Larbert, led by Bill Pitt, presented a giant cheque to the Centre for £1750 (top left), the final total for their recent fundraising events for the Centre.



Bill's fundraising efforts led Station Hotel regular Tom Griffin to begin fundraising on the barge on which he works, and in November Tom presented the Centre with an all-singing, all-dancing HD Digital TV/DVD with iPlayer doc, courtesy of the Goldstar crew of the Pauline. Tom is pictured top right with Kirsten, and the TV is now in regular use by the School Group.



In October, Kirsten was invited to the Rotary Club of Stirling to receive a cheque for £5000, the proceeds of a sponsored walk of the West Highland Way. Rotary members and friends split into groups to cover different sections of the route in one day. Well done to everyone who took part!

Our friends at Broadwood Farm held a family day and fundraising evening in August in aid of the Centre, and raised £566.40. Special thanks to Nicola Peachey for co-ordinating the fundraising!

And finally, we're delighted to announce that Pudsey has awarded the Centre £3000 from Children in Need, which will be used in the development of the children's communal area. Thanks, Pudsey!

Useful Information

Last day of term for pupils: 17 December
Last day of term for staff: 18 December
First day of term for staff: 4 January
First day of term for pupils: 5 January

Contact Details

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Friends of Craighalbert (Scottish charity no SC019427) is the fundraising arm of The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments (Scottish charity no SC008428; a company registered in Scotland number 129291).
Registered Office: Craighalbert Centre, 1 Craighalbert Way, Cumbernauld, Scotland, G68 0LS

A message from Professor Pat Salter, Director



As you may know, fundraising is incredibly important to us because without it we simply would not be able to offer additional services as they don't receive funding from any other source. This includes the staffing and other costs associated with providing the Parent & Baby Group, for children aged from birth to two years and their parents; the Siblings Group, which is a support group for brothers and sisters of children who attend our Outreach service, providing vital help and support for families who use the Centre; and the hydro-therapy pool, which costs in excess of £30,000 a year to operate and maintain. Our fundraising is what also enables us to purchase equipment, maintain our play areas, sense garden, picnic area and Learning Garden – but we can't sustain any of these if we do not meet our fundraising targets.

Our fundraising target for the year is £140,000.
Every donation, whether large or small, helps us towards this goal.

Ciara's success story

Ciara was born with cerebral palsy, and began attending the Craighalbert Centre at the age of just nine weeks old. Coming to the Parent & Baby Group (one of the Centre's free services, supported entirely by donations) with her mum allowed Ciara to develop her motor skills and co-ordination, and progress through the Parent & Child, Nursery and School Groups.

Now aged five, Ciara attends her local mainstream primary school on a full-time basis, making periodic visits to the Centre through the Outreach Department.

"Craighalbert offered us hope when we thought there was none," said Shona and Kevin, Ciara's parents. "It's hard for us to imagine where Ciara would be today if we hadn't discovered Craighalbert ... it is truly a gem."



Above picture used by kind permission of the Daily Record

Please help children like Ciara by making a donation.

Simply complete your details on this form and return it with your donation to Kirsten Bruce, Marketing & Fundraising Manager, Craighalbert Centre, 1 Craighalbert Way, Cumbernauld G68 0LS. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Craighalbert. If you'd like to donate by credit or debit card, please call 01236 456100.

I enclose a donation of (please tick) £100 £50 £25 £10 Other _____

Regular giving by **standing order** helps Craighalbert keep down admin costs. It also means we are able to make future plans, as we are able to estimate our monthly income. If you would like to receive information about regular giving, please tick this box.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL _____ EMAIL _____

Please tick this box if you are a UK tax payer and would like to **Gift Aid** this and future donations. We'd like to keep in touch to let you know about the Centre and its fundraising. Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to be contacted.

With thanks and best wishes for the festive season,

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CRAIGHALBERT NEWS

December 2009



Parent & Baby Group

The Parent & Baby Group is one of the services that we provide free of charge, and which relies on fundraising to allow it to continue.

The first few years of a child's life are the most important, as it's at this time that they learn skills that will help them negotiate life successfully. Helping children in the early years, particularly for those with cerebral palsy and similar conditions, is important in helping them achieve that success.

The Centre runs a free service for babies under the age of two and their parents. Parents and other family members work with their child under the guidance and support of staff on a weekly basis. The emphasis is initially on encouraging positive early parent/child interaction in a motivating and fun environment. Although the main accent is on encouraging good movement, all aspects of the child's development are incorporated into the programme. There is a focus on making parents aware of how to encourage good movement patterns and understand the importance of correct positioning of their child throughout the day and night. These sessions are often a valuable way for parents to meet other people in a similar situation and have access to our Family Support Service, which is another free service the Centre provides through fundraising.

"It's amazing to see the progress that children make, and what a difference it makes for the families," says Katrina Routledge, Senior Team Member, who has been involved with the Parent & Baby Group for four years.

"The Parent & Baby Group is also a great help to parents and other family members, as they are introduced to a new group of people in similar circumstances. This new source of support is invaluable for those whose child has just received a diagnosis, and continues to be a source of strength throughout their child's time at the Centre, and beyond.

"It's a real privilege to be involved with families at such an important stage in their child's development, and to watch the children fulfil their potential as they progress through the Centre."



Left: baby Gabriel and mum Mary enjoying the Parent & Baby Group.

Online shopping with www.easyfundraising.org.uk/craighalbert

Yes, it's that time of year again (where has the year gone?)!

If you're planning to take the pain out of your Christmas or grocery shopping by doing it online, please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/craighalbert first! From there, you can visit thousands of high street retailers' websites, and each time you make a purchase, the retailer makes a donation to your chosen charity. What's more, you won't have to put up with traipsing about in bad weather or standing in queues, and your shopping will be delivered straight to your door. Everyone wins!

Easy Fundraising also features loads of special offers and competitions, so it's well worth checking out. And if you know any keen online shoppers, please let them know and ask them to support Craighalbert!

Gardening Project

A huge thank you to Sgt Brodie Pryke and all our friends at the MOD Police, RNAS Coullport, who have very kindly donated all the items required for our Gardening Project to swing into action!

Thank you also to those of you who donated your **Morrisons 'Let's Grow'** vouchers to Craighalbert. We received 380 in total and have used them to buy a selection of children's long-handled garden tools, including a rake, a hoe, a spade and a garden brush.

As you can see from the photos, the children have been very busy preparing pots for bulb planting, and spending time deciding where the bulbs will go in the garden. Next year, Craighalbert's grounds should be a riot of colour, and the children will also be cultivating lots of lovely fruit and vegetables, which will be transformed into delicious recipes!



Craighalbert Golf Classic 2009

This year's Craighalbert Golf Classic finally took place on Wednesday 16 September, having been postponed from the original date of Thursday 3 September due to our glorious Scottish weather! Luck was with us on the second attempt, though, with good conditions and a fundraising total of over £4500.

The triumphant team this year were the boys from Kier Scotland, who were taking part in the event for the first time. Pictured top right is Kier's captain, James Johnson, receiving the rose bowl from Prof Pat Salter, the Centre's Director. The trophy is now proudly on display at the office – and they're already looking forward to defending their title next year!

James and his team mates also popped into the Centre to say hello and get a photo taken for their company newsletter. They're pictured bottom right with the children during Together Time.

