

Families Matter

at Hythe URC

Trustees' Report and

Financial Statement

For the year ending 31st March 2024

Includes:

Trustees' Annual Report
Chairman's Report
Treasurer's Report
Receipt and Payments Account
Independent Examiner's Report
Project Reports

Registered Charity No. 1097108

Cornerstone (Hythe URC)
New Road, Hythe,
Southampton,
Hampshire SO45 6BR
Telephone: 023 8020 7623
E-mail: office.fm.hurc@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Peter Blasby Chairman



The formation of Families Matter came over 25 years ago from a throw away comment by a young teenage girl on her way to court. Looking deeper into what this young girl said led to understanding what the break down in family life really means and two of

our ladies started providing parenting classes. We offered them as free course back in 1997 and they are still free today because the need in the community is still there. By 2002, it became essential to become a charity and to employ professional staff to handle deep rooted and social problems. We have grown a lot as a charity since that small beginning and you can read about all the things we do in this annual report.

I am so proud of being part of this charity, working with the staff, volunteers and trustees to deliver this diverse programme of support in so many different ways. We are unique and very grateful for the support of Cornerstone Hythe United Reformed church that gives us an office and use of rooms all free of charge to run our programmes. Also, though we only employ nine part-time staff we have always been well supported by over 20 volunteers and without them we could not do what we do. Fund raising plays a considerable part of our Project Manager Laura Gray's time and with help from others, on average, the charity applies for at least two funding sources per month. Fund raising is both time consuming and challenging. Our thanks must also go to the Waterside Community Fund, NFDC and local district councillors who have supported us from the beginning.

I must thank all the staff, volunteers and trustees for all their commitment and professionalism over so many years. I would like to thank all those that have left this year for all they have contributed and for all the new people that have joined this year for all the new talents and commitment they bring to the Families Matter charity.

ADMINISTRATION

Bev Hall Secretary



Another exciting year in the life of Families Matter has passed. So much has happened - life in this charity is certainly never dull.

Laura has now been with us for a year and has done a wonderful job of taking the

charity forward. Fundraising, helping needy families, mentoring children in Beaulieu School are just a few of her tasks to mention. A very big thank you to her for her untiring commitment to Families Matter. You will see as you read the reports that there has been a terrific amount of work going on. This does not happen without a lot of hard work from everyone within the charity, so a big thank you to all our workers and volunteers.

The office is running very smoothly, due to our admin worker, Eva. She has taken some of the burden from Laura and from Peter our Treasurer. It is just mind-boggling the amount of work that has to be kept up to scratch in the office - so thank you Eva.

As we look to the future, On The Right Track is a very sought after service and we are looking to expand the work. Therefore we have employed two more workers.

We now look at the whole family, so dementia support has also become a very valued part of the work we do; sadly everyone in a family feels the effects of dementia so they all are in need of support.

Whoever would have thought from the small beginnings of parenting courses we would become such an important part of life in the Waterside. So we look forward to what challenges and joys the coming year will bring.



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
 From Day 1st Month April Year 2023 To Day 31st Month March Year 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1097108

Charity's principal address Cornerstone

Hythe United Reformed Church

Hythe, Southampton

Postcode SO45 4BR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Blasby	Chairman		Charity Members
	Joan Shrewry	Secretary	Until December 2023	Charity Members
2	Beverley Hall	Secretary	From January 2024	Charity Members
3	Peter Blasby	Treasurer		Charity Members
4	Margaret Yapp			Charity Members
5	Joy Drake			Charity Members
6	Nick Tustian		From October 2023	Charity Members
7	Carol Lee		From January 2024	Charity Members
8	Derek Olden		From January 2024	Charity Members

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Association
Trustee selection methods	Elected by members at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Families Matter maintains a full set of policies and procedures

Families Matter works with two other local charities, The Handy Trust and Youth and Families Matter and some statutory bodies

We have working agreements with The Handy Trust

All major systems and procedures are the result of collective management discussion

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance public education and awareness in the promotion of good parenting and other areas of family life and to build self-confidence and resilience. This is achieved through the provision of support, training, advice and information.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Parenting courses, group activities, one to one support, working in schools and other places.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Families Matter does not supply grants to other people or organisations

Families Matter do not have an investment policy

Families Matter relies to a great extent on volunteers to provide much of the service provision and to support our paid workers

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

188 families helped during the year which equates to 630 people

Active response to an increased need in the area of children and young people's mental health

A big increase in mentoring after OTRT in the senior schools, 22 pupils this year

An increase in parents attending parenting courses and a pilot group set up in a Primary school for parents to support them with daily challenges.

A new extended program and also a new WhatsApp group set up to support members in the Women's Wellbeing group.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Many years ago, we took the decision to start a reserve fund which has grown over the years and now represents almost six months of our expenditure. We will continue to grow the fund.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Principal sources of funding – Waterside Community Fund, Children in Need, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, plus many smaller amounts coming from other sources including fundraising which all help to maintain this work.

Feedback from all areas of work shows the need and the success of our work.

Families Matter does not have an investment policy.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Peter Blasby	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	27.06.2024	

FAMILIES MATTER ACHIEVEMENTS

At least 200 families were impacted during the year by our various groups and activities.

Activity/group	Number of families helped	Estimated number of people helped
On the Right Track	56	224
School mentoring	22	88
Family Support 1:1	13	52
Parenting courses	21	84
SWANS	13	52
SWANS Activity days	9	36
Women's Wellbeing Group	17	34
Hythe Huddle	19	19
Our Time	5	10
Memory group	10	20
Waterside Coffee Morning	3	12
Total	188	631

FAMILIES MATTER AT HYTHE URC

Charity No 1097108

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 1/4/23 to 31/3/24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
A1 Receipts				
Donations	£ 2,557	£ -	£ 2,557	£ 2,875
Hythe URC	£ 42	£ -	£ 42	£ -
Waterside Com Fd	£ 30,000	£ -	£ 30,000	£ 25,000
Bank interest	£ 1,260	£ -	£ 1,260	£ 412
SWANS	£ -	£ 732	£ 732	£ 14
BBC CIN	£ -	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	£ 10,475
Huddle	£ -	£ 288	£ 288	£ 1,500
OTRT	£ -	£ 4,627	£ 4,627	£ 2,964
NLCF	£ -	£ 5,500	£ 5,500	£ -
Sovereign	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ -
Total	£ 33,859	£ 22,146	£ 56,005	£ 43,240

A3 payments

Office costs, note 5	£ 33,667	£ -	£ 33,667	£ 30,892
SWANS	£ -	£ 162	£ 162	£ 172
BBC CIN	£ -	£ 13,630	£ 13,630	£ 8,012
Huddle	£ -	£ 1,931	£ 1,931	£ 1,297
OTRT	£ -	£ 4,626	£ 4,626	£ 3,569
NLCG	£ -	£ 1,181	£ 1,181	£ -
Sovereign	£ -	£ 367	£ 367	£ -
Total	£ 33,667	£ 20,349	£ 54,016	£ 43,942

A4 Accounts & cash funds 1 April 2023

Cheque account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 37,662	£ 12,833	£ 50,495	£ 50,495
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 15,887	£ 15,887	£ 15,887
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 37,672	£ 28,720	£ 66,392	£ 66,392

A5 Accounts & cash funds 31 March 2024

Cheque account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 31,204	£ 8,003	£ 39,207	£ 50,495
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 22,957	£ 22,957	£ 15,887
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total funds	£ 31,214	£ 30,960	£ 62,174	£ 66,392

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2024

	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	Total funds
B1 Accounts & cash funds			
Current account	£ 10	£ -	£ 10
Deposit account	£ 31,204	£ 8,003	£ 39,207
Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 22,957	£ 22,957
Petty cash	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 31,214	£ 30,960	£ 62,174

B2 Assets No value to assets - see note 4 £ 818

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	When due
B3 Liabilities			
HMRC	Unrestricted	£ 256	April 2024
Un-cleared payments	Unrestricted	£ -	April 2024
	Total	£ 256	

21st June 2024

date of audit by Mr R. M. C. Harvey

Approved by the treasurer
on behalf of all the trustees

P C Blasby

See Independent Examiner's Report

Notes to these receipts and payment accounts

- 1 These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission recommended practice 'Accounting and Reporting' May 2007.
- 2 All amounts are to nearest whole £.
- 3 Families Matter has no Endowment funds or investments.
- 4 The only tangible assets are office equipment which are written-off over four years at 25% per year of the original price.
- 5 The expenditure by the office is for courses, one to one support, admin support, support of shortfalls in funding and payments to HMRC.
- 6 Families Matter is committed to providing a professional service and this year £1008 was spent on staff training.
- 7 Families Matter employs one member of staff on an annual basis, a number of sessional staff whose payments are arranged termly and a large number of volunteers who only receive expenses.
- 8 Your reserve fund is reviewed each year.
- 9 The Trustees have not claimed any personal expenses again this year.
- 10 Families Matter thanks Mike Harvey for auditing our accounts and his advice.
- 11 Families Matter would like to thank the following people and companies for their continued financial support and in many other ways;
- 12 Hythe United Reformed Church for their continued support of the FM project.
In providing office space, heat and lighting and rooms for the work
- 13 Waterside Community Fund for their continued support to the FM project.
- 14 BBC Children in Need fund for their three year commitment to the FM project
- 15 HCC for their support of the OTRT project
- 16 NLCF for their support
- 17 Sovereign Housing for their support
- 18 Barker Mills for their support to the FM project
- 19 And many other donations that all ensure that this service can continue.

Independent examiner's report of the accounts of Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Families Matter at Hythe United Reformed Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/24

Charity no
(if any)

1097108

Set out on pages

One page

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention that needs attention, in fact the accounts were well presented and the procedures used in preparing and maintaining the accounts were comprehensive and transparent. In light of this I have not had reason to raise any items and hence I have not used the 'Section B – Disclosure'.

Signed:



Date:

21/06/2024

Name:

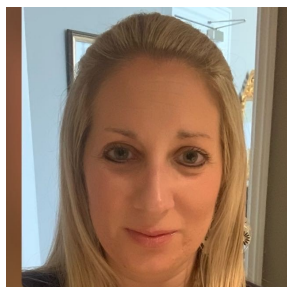
Ronald Michael Colliss Harvey

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Mechanical Engineer, M.I.Mech.E, B Sc (Eng)

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Laura Gray



What an incredibly busy year it has been! We have attended several community events and funding fairs. We have built a strong relationship with Sovereign Network Group, Waterside School and local charities.

We regularly attend local forum meetings such as Totton and Waterside Community Meeting and the Local Children's Partnership forum. These are such valuable meetings and allow vital networking across the Waterside. As a result of contacts made at these, we have worked with Culture in Common, Lucie Mann (New Forest Aquaponics) and Community First and we continue to work closely with Youth and Family Matters at Totton and The Handy Trust.

We have vastly increased our funding this year and on average are completing two funding applications each month. We are grateful to all our current funders including Waterside Community Fund, Barker Mills, Exxon Mobil, Sovereign Network Group, New Forest District Council, Hythe Wives, LCP Development Grant Holiday Activity Fund and Councillors Malcom Wade, David Harrison and Sandra Delemare.

This year has seen the creation of two new projects: The Waterside Coffee Morning and Mentoring at Beaulieu Village Primary School. The parent coffee morning was set up in conjunction with Waterside Primary School and Sovereign Network Group. This has run from October and still continues to meet weekly providing all around support to local families. One parent told us: "I think the coffee mornings were very useful and helpful, my mould is much better now and I've seen an improvement in my asthma at night time now. They have given me a lovely bond and I know they're both there for anything I need."

In line with our mentoring programme, we have begun mentoring at Beaulieu Village Primary School. This has provided the opportunity to work to form new relationships and further outreach to more families in need.

We have had several changes in staff throughout the year with Sue Capper (leader of our Women's Wellbeing Group) leaving at the end of April. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work Sue put in over her nine years of running the support group. She will be greatly missed. Suzanne Watts (School Worker) also left the charity at the end of April. We are very grateful for her work over the past five years and for the nurture and support she gave to all the children she mentored and worked with. At the beginning of the year, we said farewell to Joan Shewry (one of the co-founders for this charity). We are incredibly appreciative for all she has given to the charity and her dedicated time since the charity began in the very beginning.

As a result, we have employed new staff and were delighted to employ Jen Mansbridge as Leader of Women's Wellbeing group and as Deputy Leader for Memory group. She brings with her a wealth of skills and experience across lots of different areas. More recently, we were delighted to employ two new School Workers and look forward to working with them from September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their hard work throughout the year and are incredible volunteers without whom our charity would not continue to thrive.

OTRT—On The Right Track

**Nicky Wallis, Emily Milton
and Kelly Hall**

We were excited to be working with the staff and children at Marchwood Junior School for the first time this year. We have supported a total of 54 children on this programme.

During the Autumn term, we thoroughly updated our programme for this project which has involved many hours of discussions and edits to worksheets. As a team, we are now confident our content is relevant, current and comprehensive.

On our programme this year we have seen an increase in children in the care system and sadly this seems to be a number which is further increasing each year. This year, we have worked with children in foster care placements and special guardianship orders.

Throughout the year, we have experienced a lot of changes this year with children being removed from the programme (for various reasons) and children being added half way through (or later) during the year.

MENTORING

**Nicky Wallis, Emily Milton
and Kelly Hall**

During September, our School Workers attended the three local secondary schools Applemore, Noadswood and New Forest Academy. They were supporting the children on their first day and were present on the morning drop offs and lunchtimes.

This year, we provided support for 19 children from New Forest Academy, Applemore and Noadswood. The weekly sessions helped the children to settle into their new school life and focused on building positive relationships with teachers, parents and peers, improving self-esteem and confidence and improving mental health and wellbeing. This year, we have updated our aims for this programme along with a School Worker Policy. This has been sent to all the relevant partner schools.

BEAULIEU

Suzanne Watts / Laura Gray

Our Beaulieu mentoring began in January. We worked closely with YFM to handover the children effectively. Suzanne supported three children across Key Stage Two and after Easter, I have been mentoring four children across Key Stage One and Two. The mentoring sessions are planned weekly and personalised to the needs of the individual children. Sessions include support to improve self-esteem, confidence, resilience and emotional regulation. We were pleased to give three of these children the opportunity to attend Paultons Park free of charge recently in partnership with the Lyons charity.

1:1 SUPPORT

Laura Gray

This project has been incredibly busy this year. We have received referrals from local schools, churches and even Local Authorities. We have also taken referrals from our social media platforms and other charities too. Support has varied massively but has generally consisted of phone calls and home visits, referrals to charities like Young Carers and HoneyPot, completing relevant forms and attending meetings at local schools. We have experienced families in desperate need of food supplies throughout the year and continue to refer to the Waterside Food Bank. In addition to this, we have set up a weekly food supply for one family. We are grateful to Lucie Mann for this kind donation. We are currently supporting six families on a regular basis. Some of these families have benefited from our parenting courses and are now regular attendees of our support groups too.



PARENTING COURSE:

Liz Beaven

Since the last AGM we have offered three different parenting groups to help parents understand and manage their child's angry feelings. The group members average about 7 to 10 in total, although this year the numbers have been slightly lower. Our new group, the fourth offered this year, has 12 parents registered for our evening course.

Feedback has been positive on previous courses and shown improved relationships and management of children's anger. We aim to run another course aimed at parents of teenagers in the next academic year.

Our regular parent groups continue both at Cornerstones and Testwood Baptist Church with Kelly Price and Liz Beaven. We have a variety of needs on the courses with some parents having very critical situations to deal with involving other agencies. More parents are sharing problems about their children on the autistic spectrum or ADHD which are often more extreme difficulties. The course follows a programme originally devised by psychologists, which we vary by adding additional material. There is room for discussion and personal stories and examples from members. Parents value the mutual support they gain from others in the group. Below are some feedback comments from those who have attended previously:

'We are able to communicate better which has decreased the outbursts.'

'His tantrums are shorter.'

'I'm much more observant and now know what to look for.'

'Good to understand how his body and brain is thinking.'

'Great being in a group going through the same thing.'



WOMENS WELLBEING GROUP

Sue Capper / Jen Mansbridge

Sue Capper's last session running The Women's Wellbeing Group was on Friday 26th April. She has (reluctantly) had to step back due to increasing caring responsibilities at home. For 9 years it has been her joy and privilege to see the group grow and develop as they have supported each other in their wellbeing journeys. Sue has so many fond memories to take with her.

We have appointed a new leader (Jen Mansbridge) who has worked with the group to create a new programme, bringing fresh momentum with her wealth of experience and skills.

Expanding Our Horizons project took place from spring this year and has consisted of a variety of different activities across several months with the aim of expanding skills base and experiences to reduce the feelings of isolation and loneliness amongst members in the group. This project has also involved setting up a regular weekly transport for members as this had previously been a massive barrier in the past.

We worked with a local charity Culture in Common who provided a cookery lesson, members learnt how to make a curry. Members enjoyed tasting the end result. Next, members took part in three different movement classes, such as Zumba and a gentle movement class. We had a visit from a local stylist who spoke about colours and styling. This helped to build and improve self-esteem amongst our members. Lastly the project has included a trip to Christchurch, where the group took part in walking and visiting the local emporium shop. Those members walking were delighted to see a rare Peregrine Falcon during their river walk.

We recently received this quote from one member regarding this trip, "thank you very much for letting us go on this trip, which we will treasure and remember fondly always." The group look forward to more trips around the local area in the future including a visit to Hillier Gardens.

SWANS

Emily Milton

Swans is a group for families who have children with additional needs. We run weekly drop in sessions for parents and carers on Friday mornings in term time, these are attended by a regular core of up to six parents / grandparents (and preschool children) and we had a few families dropping in occasionally.

Swans also run activity mornings once during each school holiday which are usually attended by between 8-13 children, both children with additional needs and their siblings. These mornings are well received by the parents who often find school holidays especially challenging. We are very lucky to have received additional funding and are already organising an extended programme for these days and have rented a bouncy castle for the one in the summer holidays.

Unfortunately for our group, our volunteer Jen has taken over the running of another group within the charity. We do miss her but we know she's doing great in her new role. But we are looking for another volunteer if you would like to join us..

Please contact the office on 023 8020 7623
office.fm.hurc@gmail.com



OUR TIME

Ann Weaver / Margaret Yapp

The big change for Our Time this past year was the retirement of Madeline Slade in January 2024. She was a founder member of the group (in 2007) and drew on her experience of being a house parent to young mums who had an addiction. She played a leading role in a very gentle and positive way and of course everyone loved her cakes. She had many words of wisdom and we already miss her presence with us.



We continue to meet every other month at a local venue in Hythe. We have tea and biscuits and are able to encourage one another. Those who have an addicted family member live much of the time with stress and anxiety and it is good to share with others who understand, are sympathetic and can often offer helpful suggestions. Not everyone is able to attend every meeting but we always have a rewarding time. In between times we keep in touch through our WhatsApp group.

The group has remained stable this year and we have had contact with one or two others who have made enquiries. We are expecting to add another facilitator soon.



HYTHE HUDDLE

Peter & Pat Dudley

Huddle has continued to provide a programme of music, seasonal crafts, chair exercises and one month a therapy dog. Our favourite singers have returned to entertain us and others have come for the first time. Christmas saw a visit from Santa and the welcome return of a choir of young people from Noadswood School. We held a party to celebrate the Coronation under the watchful eye of (a cardboard) King Charles.

Numbers at our meetings have declined as some of our friends of long-standing are now unable to attend but some new couples have now started to come. In order to promote Huddle awareness posters have been placed in shops, GP surgeries and community premises across the Waterside.

Thanks must go to our strong group of voluntary helpers who regularly do those jobs necessary to keep Huddle running properly.



MEMORY GROUP

Liz Beaven

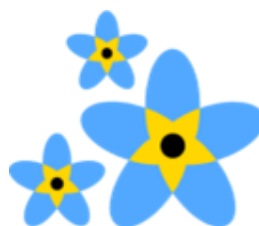
The Memory Group meets weekly on Mondays at 2pm during term times, with occasional extra meet ups during the holiday periods in the local area.

It is a group for people with mild to moderate cognitive impairments and specific dementia conditions. At the heart of the programme are planned activities to increase cognitive stimulation and to hopefully slow down the rate of memory decline, or at least activate new areas of learning in the brain.

The leader is trained in CST and we follow some of the activities in the original programme. However, we also build on the original course and do other exercises and activities ranging from singing, physical exercises, word games, visual memory games, number and naming activities and specific memory tips and practices. Each session has a theme and in the past year we have done activities including chair exercises, nutrition and foods which help memory, quizzes of various kinds, childhood and family memories, craft, making an Easter Garden, discussions around different subjects in current affairs, famous people, music and of course singing each week.

We also went on the boat trip late last summer down Southampton Water with most members taking a turn at the wheel. This Spring we took the group to Exbury Gardens, and the group enjoyed the outing despite the rain. The group averages about six to seven members and it is not set up to be a large group as members need support and time to discuss issues.

We hope to visit Lepe beach during the last part of this term. The group has a leader and a deputy leader plus an additional helper.



SAFEGUARDING

Joy Drake

We take Safeguarding of both adults and children very seriously at Families Matter. We have a robust Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed, and all staff are required to have a thorough understanding of our policies and practices and take part in routine training.

Anyone working for Families Matter in either a paid or voluntary position is required to have also undertaken a Disclosure and Barring Service check, and references are taken up. We are grateful to Paul Lailey of Trustworthy Services who has led training sessions, keeping us updated on current legislation and best practice around Safeguarding.

Our manager, Laura, is our current Designated Safeguarding Lead, and her deputy is Liz Beaven. Joy Drake is our Safeguarding Trustee. Laura reports monthly to Trustees providing information on the numbers of safeguarding concerns received and referrals made.

All Safeguarding concerns should be referred to Laura in the first instance unless she is unavailable.

Our safeguarding email is:
safeguarding.fm.hurc@gmail.com



PERSONNEL

Bev Hall

There have been many changes over the year.

After over 25 years of service Joan Shewry decided it was time to retire as Secretary to Families Matter. Joan was co-founder of the charity and has been an amazing support to everyone over the years, always helping out in anyway she could, mentoring new workers and in her role as Secretary keeping Families Matter running smoothly. A very big thank you to Joan – she may have retired but we know that when we need advice she will still be available!

So where Joan did everything her role has been split up, so I, as her successor, will not have such an onerous task. A big thank you to Mary York for taking and writing up the minutes after each meeting, and for all the other trustees for picking up other tasks.

Sue Capper who has run the Women's Wellbeing Group felt, due to family pressures, that she needed to retire. All the ladies she nurtured over the years will sorely miss her, so we wish her well.

We also said goodbye to Suzanne Watts, one of our schools workers. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well too.

Due to increasing demand and potential expanding our school worker role, we have employed two new staff and are excited for them to start in September this year.

But we have welcomed three new Trustees, Nick Tustian, Carol Lee and Derek Olden, all bringing invaluable skills to Families Matter.