



**HOME
START**

Royston, Buntingford &
South Cambridgeshire

Registered Charity No. 1105385



SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

It's November already (wow! how quickly time has passed us by) and it's been some months since we sent out our last newsletter, but we've been very busy during that time...

Fun with our families during the summer months

Over the summer, [we enjoyed a fabulous outdoor picnic and soft play party with our families](#). It was a chance to come together again after such a long time of being apart.

We also enjoyed [sharing an outing to Standalone Farm with many of our families](#) - the sun shone, and we would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Pico Technology for making this trip possible.

Thanking our volunteers in a very special way

In September, we finalised the long-awaited Thank You booklet for our volunteers. We hosted a special morning of tea and cake to share the book and to thank our wonderful volunteers. [Click here to read all about it](#).

We were pleased to be able to train five new Family Group volunteers and we are looking forward to them joining our existing teams really soon.

Our hybrid AGM worked a treat!

We successfully held our first hybrid AGM recently, where participants joined us both in person and electronically using Zoom. The meeting was well attended, and we were pleased to welcome a past family, who talked about her experience of being supported by both a home-visiting volunteer and family group. It is always so powerful to hear about the difference that Home-Start can make to a family.

Not so long ago, one of our families, along with their volunteer, shared their story about their Home-Start journey in a blog post, [which you can read here](#).

Funding to give more support to our families

Securing funding continues to be paramount, particularly now, as we continue to see an increase in demand for our services. And a recent donation from the [Hertfordshire Community Foundation](#) gave us the chance to offer our families a useful tool to help them through these challenging times.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to work with a local organisation, Hands on Mindfulness, to [offer our families 6 zoom sessions designed to support parents' wellbeing](#). 8 parents benefitted from attending these sessions and told us that they felt more able to manage stress and more confident in supporting their children's wellbeing.

If you know of any companies or philanthropists wishing to make an impact on the community through supporting our charity, please pass our details on. The more funding we are able to raise, the more we can offer the families we support and give local children a better start in life.

Enjoying our face to face events again

In September, we enjoyed getting back out in our local community and being part of the Buntingford Classic Car Show. [Find out how we got on here.](#)

We also held our first face to face literary lunch in what feels like a very long time. This proved to be such a popular event that tickets sold out in record time. The event took place at The Bull in Royston and we thoroughly enjoyed talking to Christine Adams, author of "A Lifetime in the Building". Keep an eye out on our events calendar for the next literary lunch event.

Lucky to have such talent on board

As always, over the last 4 months, our wonderful Poet-in-Residence, Jude Simpson, has entertained us with her wonderful poetry that so many of us can relate to. Jude's words [about her last child going off to school](#) touched a nerve with so many of us.

And, on National Poetry Day, we were delighted to have a chance [to dedicate a post to Jude](#) and write about how grateful we are for everything she does for Home-Start.

Journey of a Home-Start trustee

For Trustees Week (1st-5th Nov) we thought it would be great to share with you a snapshot of what a Home-Start Trustee's role looks like. So, we asked Lois, a past Trustee (who retired from her role earlier this year) to share her experiences in a blog post, and she didn't let us down. [You can read all about her Home-Start journey here.](#)

Help support local families with a small donation

We are so touched and encouraged by donations we have received from individuals and organisations within the community and would like to say a huge Thank You to all.

Regular monthly donations help Home-Start to be sustainable. They enable us to plan, as well as diversify services which help us to meet the changing needs of our community. Giving just £5 a month can help a family to attend one of our family support groups, where they can meet other people, benefit from the support of a team of volunteers and maybe just chill out with a hot cup of tea!!

If regular monthly giving is not your thing there are plenty of other ways in which you can help - [find out more on our website.](#)

We are always interested to hear from people who are interested in volunteering for Home-Start. Have you got a few hours a month to spare? You might like to join our Events Planning Group, helping with preparations and organising our face to face events? [Email us for more details.](#)

Upcoming Events

You should have already received our Events Update in mid-October. But just in case you missed it, here is a quick reminder of what HSRBSC have in store for Nov/Dec:

- **20th Oct – 27th Nov:** [At Home with Jude Simpson](#) (BOOK TODAY!)
- **3rd Dec** – [Christmas Decoration Masterclasses](#) (morning sessions SOLD OUT)
- **4th Dec** – [Cinema Night with Buntingford Film Club](#) (GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!)

There are also some exciting community events coming up soon, which we will either be attending or are happening in aid of HSRBSC;

- Meldreth Christmas Market (**21st Nov**)
- Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival (**26th Nov**)
- Haslingfield Christmas Market (**4th Dec**), and
- WomenSing Carol Concert (**8th Dec**).

And don't forget to [check our Events Calendar](#) on the website, which is updated regularly!

Home-Start Christmas Cards
On Sale Now!

The image displays seven Christmas cards arranged on a red background with white starburst patterns. The cards feature: a reindeer, a lit candle with holly, a gnome, a village scene, a person carrying a tree, a robin, and a snowman. At the bottom center is the Home-Start logo with the text 'Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire' and 'Registered Charity No. 1105281'.

[Click here to purchase your pack\(s\) today!](#)

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Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire (incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire), Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 6JP, United Kingdom,

Ph: 01763 262262 Charity No: 1105385

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