



With the weather warming up and the sunshine making a much-needed appearance, it's time to share what we've been up to over the last few months.

Since our last update, the Home-Start team have been super busy... our Scheme Manager ran a half marathon, we hosted yet another successful Literary Lunch, said goodbye to one of our long-standing trustees, and on top of all that, we are gearing up for our super-exciting 'Strictly for Charity' event.

So take a few moments out of your day and have a read through our updates below...

Sarah's personal challenge

When one of our supporters takes on a personal challenge to fundraise for Home-Start, it's such a wonderful thing. So it was not surprising that when our Scheme Manager, Sarah, told us she was running the Cambridge Half Marathon again, she was doing it to help raise funds for our charity. [Here's why she took this challenge on for Home-Start.](#)

The weather was perfect on the day, and Sarah finished the race in 2hrs and 20 minutes. Her fundraising target was £300 but she absolutely smashed that too and raised a whopping £930!!!

Would you like to take on your own personal challenge in support of Home-Start?

We can help you with planning, fundraising pages and ideas to get sponsorship. You don't have to be a runner. You could be a skipper, a walker, a singer, a cyclist... the list is endless. If you're inspired to be creative and take on a challenge, then we would love to hear from you. [Get in touch today to see how we can support you.](#)

Our love for Literary Lunches

Our Literary Lunch events are proving to be really popular as when tickets go on sale; they sell out within days! One of our lovely supporters, Linda, who has been involved with Literary Lunches from the start, wrote an open letter sharing the journey of these events, and [you can read it here.](#)

February's Literary Lunch was with the lovely Ursula Buchan, granddaughter of John Buchan (Beyond the Thirty-nine Steps). The event was held at The Bull Inn in Royston and was so popular we had to stop selling tickets! As well as being a very interesting and enjoyable lunch, the event raised £559 for Home-Start. Funding like this is crucial in helping us to continue to reach local families in need. And holding events like this in our local community keeps our profile present, so our local community know about us and our services and how to access them.

Our next Literary Lunch is in June with the award-winning writer Vitali Vitaliev. Tickets will be on sale soon. [Click here to find out more.](#)

A fond farewell to one of our Trustees

One of our long-standing Trustees, Linda Smith, retired from her role in December 2021, and she will be very missed by the Home-Start staff team, trustees, volunteers and families alike. Since 2009 she supported our scheme in many ways and [you can read all about her journey with Home-Start here](#).

Community news

Without the support of the local community, Home-Start would not be able to continue helping local families through tough times. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to:

- **Linda Bance** and her magnificent **WomenSing Choir**, who in 2021 raised a phenomenal £1,441 for Home-Start - this could provide weekly home visiting support to a family for a whole year!! [Click here to read more about the wonderful work they do](#).
- Local pub, the **British Queen**, for their continued support through their meat raffle and other fundraising activities. [Read all about the wonderful ways in which they have supported Home-Start here](#),
- Supporter, **Keeley**, for raising a wonderful £220 through her singing on a Facebook live event,
- The **Original Factory Shop** in Royston for raising £56 through their Love your Home-Start raffle,
- The **Royston Photography Society** for hosting an amazing photography skills workshop, raising £124,
- Members of the **Royston WI** who raised a fabulous £246 through their pancake day event and cake sale,
- All those involved in the **Royston Repair Cafe** who donated £100 from their Cafe session at the beginning of February,
- Everyone who came along to our refreshment stall and entered the raffle at the **Meldreth Easter Market** on 3rd April. We were delighted to raise just over £400!

We're also thrilled to announce that we are part of the next round of **Tesco Community Grants**! So, next time you're shopping at Tesco Extra or Tesco Express in Royston, please grab a blue chip and pop it in the Home-Start slot!

And don't forget to catch up on our other blogs...

We always aim to cover many topics on our blog. Here are some others you may have missed:

- [The benefits of reading to your child](#)
- [Supporting your baby's development with the Oliiki app](#)

Keep your eye out for more articles and news from the Home-Start team over the coming weeks.

Upcoming Events

Our next Events Update will be going out soon, but here's a quick rundown of events we have planned over the next few months:

- **Strictly for Charity:** Dig out your glitziest dress and highest heels and join us on 14th May for our Strictly event. Tickets are £30 and include a 2-course buffet supper served to your table, a full bar and a fun photo booth, plus the chance to vote for the Strictly winner! [Click here for more info](#).
- **Aquathon:** Is your group, club or good cause looking to raise extra funds? Sign up your team (or individual) for our Aquathon event on 22nd May. All you need to do

is get sponsored (we'll provide everything you need), and on the night, your team will swim in relays at the Royston Leisure Centre. [Sign up here.](#)

- **At Home with Jude:** Missed out on this event last time around? Well, don't worry, we have some new dates available. Invite family and friends to your home, where Jude will keep you and your guests laughing with her witty lyrics, wise words and insightful comedy. [Click here for more info and to book your performance.](#)
- **Easter eCards:** Want to send cards this Easter but don't want the environmental impact of greetings cards to worry you? Choose one of our exclusive Easter designs at [Don't Send Me A Card](#), and save the planet while you send your love.

Make a donation today and help support local families

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This message was sent to you. To ensure that you'll receive our emails, please add paula@hsrsc.org.uk to your address book.

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