



Ferryfield Newsletter

Autumn 2006, Issue 1

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30th Anniversary Celebrations

Ferryfield Playgroup is celebrating 30 years in its current Castlehill location by holding a **ceilidh** in the **Corn Exchange** on **December 8th**. This is a fantastic opportunity for former attendees, staff and parents to get together and have a walk down memory lane, and enjoy an evening of dancing and fun. We are hoping to collect photographs, anecdotes and press clippings which will help demonstrate the success that Ferryfield has experienced over the years, and the vital community role it continues to play up to this day. All contributions are welcome— please

either post or email them to the Playgroup Manager.

Tickets are selling for **£8** each, and will include a **meal** of stovies and a hot drink. There will also be a bar on site and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Kick-off starts at 8pm, and swingers will be able to enjoy the beat of **Clamjamfry** until 11pm.

Tickets can be bought by calling the Ferryfield Office on 655066. All are very welcome to attend— all funds raised will go towards keeping Ferryfield one of the best facilities in Cupar.

Personal Learning Plan

Or PLP for short. A PLP is an information booklet that keeps parents and carers up to date on their child's development and progress at Playgroup and at home. It is divided into several areas, including:

- All About Me
- Emotional, Personal and Social
- Communication and Language
- Knowledge and Understanding

your child's key worker, and there are bits to complete at home as well. This way everyone involved in the child's care can share their achievements and take their needs into better account. Parents and carers are encouraged to take these home for an evening to enjoy as a family— just let your Key Worker know.

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The printing of this newsletter is possible through the generous support of Café Moka

Meet the 2006-2007 Committee

Ever wonder how Ferryfield is managed? Here's your chance to meet this year's Committee, whose responsibility it is to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the group and that all the jobs contributing to this are done.

Chairperson: Jamie Drew

If you haven't met my daughter Madison, she'll soon make herself known to you! I am married to Nick who will appear at playgroup on rare occasions and I also have a daughter named Sylvie. I have been chairperson at Ferryfield since last September and while it is hard work at times, I very much enjoy it. Last year I was simply at home with my family, but this year I have started a course in Art & Design at Elmwood College. I am usually around on Mondays and Fridays if anyone would like to talk to me about any aspect of Ferryfield Playgroup.



Secretary: Catherine Brown

I hail from a city in the south-west of Quebec (Canada), but moved at 17 to New Brunswick to pursue a degree in Biochemistry which I obtained in 1990. I came to the UK in 1994, and worked in London for a medical image library for a few years before quitting to travel for 12 months. When we got back my husband and I found jobs in St Andrews, so we moved to Scotland in early 2001. I now work at the University of Dundee as Re-



search Co-ordinator for the Design School. Our daughter Olivia is just 2 1/2 and started at Ferryfield this term. I volunteered to join the Committee as I wanted to help make a difference in my child's well-being and education. So far, so good....

Rota Secretary:

Tracy Chambers

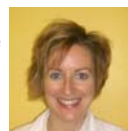
I am responsible for the duty rota. When I volunteered for this job I was told it would be a quick and easy task once a term, well it turned out to be not so quick and not so easy and within hours of my final masterpiece being posted on the notice board it resembled nothing of my original!! OK I admit I put our secretary down for a day when Olivia isn't even at playgroup but hey, I got sorted in the end. Anyway all jokes aside I did enjoy the challenge, probably my first after leaving my great job as a library manager in Oxford city 7 years ago to become a mum. In case you don't know who I am I am Melissa's mum and you sometimes see us whizzing through the town on a bike!



Supplies:

Paula Falconer

I currently have a three year old daughter at playgroup called Abby. I initially became a committee member of Ferryfield playgroup when my son Ross attended several years ago and having enjoyed the experience and feeling that I had contributed to his playgroup experience,



I was keen to become involved with the committee this time around. Over both times on the committee I have undertaken various roles however, presently I provide all supplies to the playgroup which I am able to fit around my part-time employment as a nurse. When Abby moves onto pastures new, I'm not sure who will miss Ferryfield more, her or me, we have both made new friends and I have enjoyed watching both my children flourish in this friendly, welcoming environment.

Co-opted Member:

Claire Purvis

Claire's story will appear in the next issue.



Treasurer: Sara Campbell

Sara will appear in the next issue.

Pre-School Year

If your child is happy at Ferryfield, why not let them complete their pre-school year here?
Contact the Playgroup Office for more information.

Meet the Staff

Administrative Manager: Gillian Brown



I carry out most of the key duties on the Committee's behalf, and provide staff support and supervision (this includes making sure they are paid on time, sourcing equipment, suggesting training opportunities, complying with legal obligations etc...). I'm married with 2 teenage boys. I studied for an SNC in Business Studies at Dundee Commercial College and worked for the Bank of Scotland before starting my family. With my youngest at playgroup, I began work for the SPPA, then moved to become Playfriend Co-ordinator of the Early Years Resource Centre. I first started work as a Playgroup Administrator in 2000, and fulfil this role in various capacities for 3 playgroups, with Ferryfield receiving most of my attention.

Key Worker:

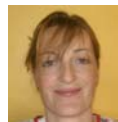
Teresa Harrower



I'm married to Malcolm, and we have a son and a daughter who have both now grown-up. I have many years experience in early years education which my teaching qualification helped me to prepare for. I try to keep as up to date as possible with new thoughts and guidelines on the education of young people, which I hope is reflected in the attitudes and development of the children attending Ferryfield. I enjoy my work here, and am always available, as is

Malcolm, if an extra hand is needed.

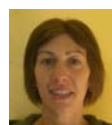
Key Worker: Lucy O'Connor



I have been at the Playgroup for just over 2 1/2 years, during which time I have completed an SVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education. I started work as a childminder, which allowed me to be there for my own 3 young children, whom my husband and I are very proud of. I think the work we do here at Ferryfield is fantastic, and I take great pride in my contribution to its success.

Playworker:

Christine Armit



I live in Cupar with my Swedish husband and two children. I have an HNC in Child Care and Education, and worked as a Nursery Nurse before joining Ferryfield as a Playworker.

Playworker: Fiona



I live with my partner Pete and our daughter Sophie who is almost 5. Sophie was once at Ferryfield and is now at Dunbog Primary School. I also have a son of 23, Allan, who lives in Glasgow.

I enjoy working with children very much and I am soon to be studying for a qualification in childcare. I am delighted to be part of the team at Ferryfield and hope to contribute to its continuing success.

Date to remember!
Class Photograph
(by Tempest):
November 17th

Open Doors Policy

Did you know that Ferryfield operates an Open Doors Policy? This means that parents are encouraged and welcomed to come by the Playgroup at any time to see what the facilities are like, discuss your child's progress with his/her key worker, or just sit in a corner and watch what happens. Ferryfield would not be able to function without parental involvement in the form of rota duties, and we of course would welcome any help offered outwith these duties as well.

Wraparound Care

This pilot scheme offers parents and carers the opportunity to get to work on time (!) by having Playgroup open at 8:45. The **Early-Risers** programme allows children to be dropped off a half-hour before the usual opening time, a great advantage if you work in the area and need to start work at 9. To make life even easier, Ferryfield has also launched **Lunch Club**, a popular option that allows your child to have their lunch with their friends and continue to play for an extra 2 and 3/4 hours. Lunch Club finishes at 2:30pm, leaving parents and carers with that all too elusive lunch hour free to complete other tasks, knowing that their children are having a great time. The fees for these programmes are a very affordable, and places can be reserved by contacting the Manager.

Summer Fête

This year's fundraising effort was, we confess, not the greatest success ever- in fact, we only just managed to break even. This regardless of such activities as a goods stall, face painting, and games. However, we still think it's a great idea, and are planning on hosting our 2nd Annual Fête this June/July, which will be on an even grander scale; we have Firefighter and Ambulance crews waiting, and even more great activities for the whole family- not to mention a bigger and better choice of bric-à-brac, baked goods, caricatures and, of course, great food. We would welcome any volunteers to help man the stalls, and would encourage you to bring along as many friends and family as you can to enjoy what promises to be an afternoon to remember.

Sponsored
Nursery
Rhymes
week of
30th October

Fundraising

Like many other organisations, Ferryfield Playgroup relies heavily on outside funding in order to keep functioning at the levels demanded by both parents and staff. The centre is in partnership with Fife Council for commissioned pre-school education places, and we therefore receive a proportionate amount of funding according to the number of eligible children we take in. Some monies are donated by charitable trusts such as Round Table, Rotary Club, and the Lottery Fund which last year allowed the refurbishment of the playroom and the provision of resources to comply with curriculum requirements. Other possible sources of income are the Scottish Pre-School Play Association, who

are part-funding the set-up for Wraparound Care, the Scottish Community Foundation and the Fife Childcare Partnership. The remainder of our income comes from donations from other parties, fees charged, and fundraising activities. Fundraising plays a huge role in any Playgroup- funds raised are sometimes needed towards running costs, in addition to helping out with the extras that are regularly required for toys, updating of facilities, rental costs of the theatre block for physical play, staff cover, etc... Last year's activities included a sponsored teddy toddle, sales of the class photograph, Tour of RAF Leuchars raffle, quiz night and the Gala, which all helped to raise modest sums. This year

we are planning the Anniversary Ceilidh, another class photograph, and a new and improved Summer Fête, to name but a few of the ideas being discussed. Fundraising relies on the efforts of the individuals taking part; the success of Ferryfield is due to the continuous support and involvement of not only Committee members, but parents and carers as well. All individual efforts to fundraise are very welcome; please remember to ask your employer if they would be willing to match any fundraising amounts, or if they are interested in sponsoring an event. Advertising in the newsletter is another inexpensive way to advertise their business.