GUILDFORD AND GODALMING GRANDMOTHERS' GROUP

2011 REPORT

As we reach the anniversary of our inaugural meeting on 5 January 2011 it is both instructive and encouraging to look back and see how much we have achieved in our first year. It can also help us to set priorities for the year ahead.   From our first tentative steps, which involved research into charitable status, financial management, contacts with other organisations and producing our first publicity resources, we have achieved a great deal as the following summary of our activities illustrates:

- seven planning meetings held
- seven newsletters published
- a committed core of seven very active members
- a similar number of other supporters
- information leaflet and banner produced
- bank account and email account opened
- two stalls at major local events in Godalming in June and December
- two coffee mornings
- one talk at the Guildford Amnesty International group
- a fund-raising quiz produced
- food hamper raffle
- cards and jewellery produced by African AIDS projects sold
- articles on the group in two local newspapers
- formal registration and regular contact with the Stephen Lewis Foundation
- links established with the Hillcrest Aids Centre
- links established with the Bourne End Gogos
- meeting in London with Linda Hallett from a Canadian grandmothers' group
- contacts with Godalming College and donation received from Student Union
- over £1,100 raised in funds to send to African grandmothers

This is quite an impressive list and provides us with a good foundation to build on in 2012. Looking back through the notes of previous meetings, we have managed to achieve most of what we had agreed, although there are one or two areas which we should perhaps focus on in future:

- raising our own awareness of the situation in African communities affected by AIDS through an ongoing programme of "self-education"
- enlisting the support of local MPs
- awareness-raising and fundraising via local church groups, WI groups etc
- recruiting new members