

# GUILDFORD AND GODALMING GRANDMOTHERS' GROUP

## 2012 REPORT

We were able to build on our first year's experience, repeating and refining some activities which had already worked well but also venturing into new areas. The group is becoming better known in the local community as a result of our presence at local events, word of mouth and also press coverage. It was an excellent year in terms of fund-raising as we were able to more than double the amount raised in 2011. We have also been able to raise awareness of the plight of the African grandmothers among new groups of people. We now need to translate these achievements into recruiting more members and expanding our activities further. The following provides a brief summary of our activities in 2012:

- an extremely successful quiz night which featured in the local press
- two stalls at local events in Godalming in June and December
- two well-received presentations to local groups (Stroke Club and the United Reformed Church "holiday at home" event)
- a successful raffle for a well-stocked Christmas hamper
- receipt of a very generous donation from the United Reformed Church
- an inspiring visit from Linda Hallett on her return journey to Canada after visiting Stephen Lewis Foundation projects in Uganda
- an article about our group in the Granny Bulletin, prompting several encouraging emails from Canadian grandmothers
- a meeting and correspondence with the Guildford MP Anne Milton who is very supportive of our aims
- continued contact with the Hillcrest Project and sale of jewellery produced there
- five planning meetings held
- five newsletters published
- a total of over £2,000 raised in funds to send to African grandmothers

Not everything went according to plan though. For example, we were unable to establish links with some local churches and WI groups as hoped and various coffee mornings failed to materialise. Also, we have still not met up with the Bourne End Gogos to share ideas. Although several grandmothers have expressed an interest in becoming involved in the group, we have been unable to expand our membership much beyond the initial core. So there is still plenty for us to do in the year ahead to continue offering the African grandmothers the most effective support possible.