



## **GUILDFORD AND GODALMING GRANDMOTHERS' GROUP**

# **2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

We organised several successful events over the course of the year and were able to increase the level of fundraising at many of these compared to previous years. The most significant feature of the year though was perhaps our increased contact with Canadian grandmothers and our first direct contact with African grandmothers. These experiences and exchanges proved very inspiring and we have felt more focused in our own work as a result. We are also pleased to have recruited some new active members to the group. The following provides a brief summary of our activities in 2013:

- two very enjoyable visits from Canadian grandmothers from whom we gleaned all sorts of ideas and insights
- Val's attendance at the African Tribunal in Vancouver, where she was inspired and moved by the contributions of the African grandmothers and the other panel members. Her report to the group on her return prompted several new ideas about how to approach our own work.
- three members participated in a conference call with Ida Nambeya, a frontline project co-ordinator working at grassroots level in several African countries, and Yasmin, our liaison person at the Stephen Lewis Foundation
- two stalls at local events in Godalming in June and December
- a fundraising tea party
- a well-attended quiz night which has proved so popular that it is set to become an annual event
- a successful raffle for a well-stocked Christmas hamper
- launch of our own website
- design of a 4G logo and purchase of a new banner
- new information leaflet on the group produced
- seven planning meetings held
- five newsletters published
- a substantial amount was raised in funds to send to African grandmothers

Overall it was another interesting and successful year. We have made good progress in forging closer links with our Canadian counterparts. We have a clearer idea of the range of difficulties faced by the African grandmothers and their needs in confronting these. We have developed new tools for publicising the aims and activities of the 4Gs. We have built up a network of keen supporters for our fund-raising activities and events. These are all valuable experiences to build on in the year ahead when we will hopefully generate more funds and awareness so that we can increase our support for the African grandmothers and the children in their care.