

the Telegraph

A club for children and their families in the North East and Cumbria who have suffered burn injuries

The newsletter of

the Grafters Club



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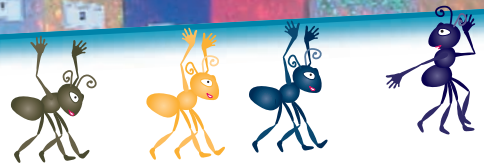
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Water or Wine – A Prize Every time!!!!



These words still ring in our ears from our great fundraising event on the May Bank Holiday. We had 400 bottles of water donated by Northumbrian Water and about 80 bottles of wine donated by many people (see below). (Try getting that lot in your car!!!!!!). We had 50 colourful bottle bags numbered and placed a bottle of water or wine in each bag. We then had a bag with cards numbered 1 – 50. You picked a card out of the bag and won what ever was inside. We had great support from the public and raised a magnificent £500. This was price matched by Lynne at Barclays giving us a fantastic £1000.



We would like to say a huge thank you to:

All the family and friends of The Grafters Club for their kind donations
Northumbrian Water
Alexandra 1st School, Ashington
Staff at the RVI
Alan Temple – Dermatix
Deborah Russell – Kelocote
David Welsh – Urgo
Sarah Askwith – Molnlycke Health Care
Studsvik
Tesco
Majestic Wine
and to The Coquetdale Round Table for giving us a stall at charitable rates



News Flash!



Family Christmas Party 2008

Saturday 29th November



12 - 4pm



At Life Centre Conference and Banqueting

(Down the side of Centre for Life, near Central Station, Newcastle)

**Disco, Games, Santa and presents, face-painting,
hot food for children and buffet for parents**

**You will be very welcome and it
would be great to see you again!**



To book your place ring Alison McKenzie
on 0191 2820587

RSVP by 10th November 2008

Any problems with transport, please let us know
when you telephone and we will try to help out



**Thank you to Studsvik for
funding our Christmas Party**

Alexander's story

On August 18th last year an explosion from a toy steam train burnt me. The first hospital I went to was James Cook Hospital at Middlesbrough. The doctors looked at me and gave me pain medicine through needles in my arms. Then the doctors said I had to go to the Newcastle General Hospital and the Great North Air ambulance came to take me to the hospital. I didn't know anything about it because I was put on a respirator to breath for me while I was in the helicopter. It was three days later when they took me off the respirator and the first thing I asked for was a pear, I was really hungry. The day after I went to the R.V.I. and I stayed there for 4 weeks. I had two operations for skin grafts on my hands face and neck. It was very painful when the nurses changed my dressings and it made me cry, but I knew that they had to do it to make me better. I went to theatre twice to get them done, that didn't hurt.

At first I had a lot of nightmares about the accident and my mam said that I used to sleepwalk and talk (mostly about McDonalds chicken nuggets or milk shake). I talked a lot to a lady called Bridie, she was really nice and helped me a to understand the nightmares and they don't happen as much now.

Now I'm back home I don't have dressings any more but I massage with cream and I wear pressure garments to flatten the scars. I know I look different, but that's fine. When people stare it upsets my mam and she gets angry but it doesn't bother me. I'm still a normal kid, I've just been burnt.

A few weeks ago my brother, my mam, grandma and me went to see the Great North Air ambulance and we met the doctor that looked after me, it was great. I can remember it this time. We looked at the police helicopter while we were there and a policeman took my photo.

I can't count on my fingers the number of Doctors and Nurses who took care of me, but everyone of them was so nice and kind and I can't thank them enough, they are all my hero's and I love them all.



See! I'm gorgeous aren't I, that's why people stare!!!



The Lady Mayoress Garden Party



We would like to thank the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress who kindly invited us to their Garden Party in July. This was in recognition of the work carried out by The Grafters Club. We would like to thank Steve Brock Photography for taking and allowing us to use this photograph.

The Grafters Club! By Lauren Brady age 9

Hello my name is Lauren Brady and I am going to tell you all about the Grafters Club! The Grafters Club is for children who have accidents in the past.

It brings people with the same accidents together to become friends and know that there not the only ones with that accident. I am part to the club and when I first started people were really nice and they had been there before, also it was very interesting to find out about there accidents and pasts. We have been to places like **Robinwood activity centre and Lightwater Valley** and lots more! They would cost a lot of money but we get it for free! So I hope you know a bit more about THE GRAFTERS CLUB!!!!!!!

Some jokes for Louise

Why did the lobster blush? *Because the sea weed*

What do you call a man with a seagull on his head? *Cliff*

What do you call a man with a car on his head? *Jack*

What would I have if I had £20 in one pocket, and £50 in another pocket?
Someone else's trousers on.



The Grafters Weekend Camp at Robinwood

It was raining when we arrived at Alston but before we knew it we were kitted out with wellies and waterproof clothing. And were off on a treasure hunt!!!

Mud was in plentiful supply and needless to say a number of the party were in it up to their middle – Dr Foster eat your heart out!!

Although the weekend was a little chilly the rain held off so we could go out and partake in all the activities - a zip wire, nightline, canoeing, climbing, piranha pool, dragon's quest, caving and archery to name but a few. Everyone took up the challenge and encouraged others to help conquer the activities and obstacles. The teamwork was fantastic – they even persuaded me to do the trapeze!!!!

Everyone had a great weekend and it gave the children the opportunity to mix with other children who had endured similar experiences. The support and reassurance they gave to each other was inspirational.

We must say a special thank you to The League of Friends who funded this weekend for The Grafters Club.



See what
I mean
about the
MUD!!!!!!!



Weekend Camp 2009

We have booked another weekend at **Robinwood** for 15th-17th May 2009. If you are aged 7-12 years old and would like to come on the next trip please contact Alison for an application form.

If you came this year and would like to go again feel free to apply as places may be available. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lightwater Valley Trip



I hope everyone who went on the trip had a great day as I definitely had a lovely time! I was very glad that the weather was just right – not too warm, with no rain! It was nice to see everyone laughing and screaming excitedly on the rides. I particularly enjoyed the Ultimate, however, I only went on it the once! Jo Mason

A special thank you to Tom, Gillian and Kyle McCarrell for the wonderful goodie bags they made for the children to enjoy on the bus journey. They were greatly appreciated by everyone.

Thanks also to Steve Hewitson, from the Club, Lynn Iveson from ASDA Gateshead and Alan Myhill who gave generously to help fill the goodie bags.

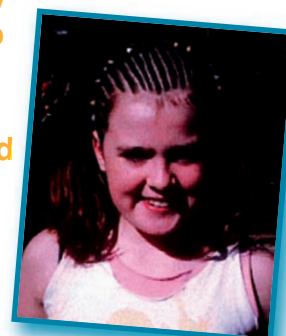
How I coped with my burns on holiday in Alcudia by Robyn Curwen



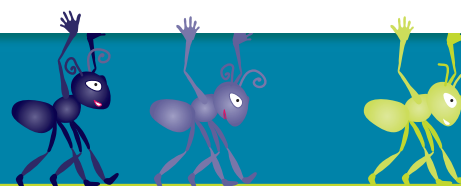
Last Year me and my family went to Alcudia on holiday. It was our first holiday abroad and was a whole year after I spent time on Ward One after being scalded. We were there for a whole week because we thought that was best to try rather than a long holiday.

Packing for the holiday was fun and so was the shopping for it. We all got lots and lots of new clothes and we also got lots and lots of really strong suncream (my parents insisted). We packed all our cases and all we had to do was wait for the day to come. We drove down to Manchester airport and booked in for our flights. As we got closer we seen planes in the sky and I started to get very very excited. We looked in the duty free shop and looked through the windows at the aeroplanes taking off and landing. We watched the screen and looked for our flight number. When ours came up on the screen we went through the gates and down a long corridor, when we got to the end we seen the plane door and the flight attendants. We sat on our seats and I held my mums hand sooooooo hard because I was excited, scared, nervous and happy all at the same time. We heard the flight attendants tell us the safety information and then the pilot introduced himself. The engines started and we headed for the runway. I thought I was going to burst with excitement. The plane got faster and faster and we took off up into the sky. The flight was fantastic and soon we were landing in Palma airport. As soon as we got off the plane we could feel how hot it was, especially because we had lots and lots of big clothes on from cold England. Because we had taken a night flight it was bed time when we got there. When we got up in the morning we went exploring. I got dressed into my strappy top and shorts and hat. Before my mum would let me out into the glorious sunshine she thickened me in the highest factor sun cream we had brought with us which was the highest we could buy. We explored the gorgeous places and finally found an ice-cream parlour to have a break in. When we were there my sisters and I got our hairs braided.

I continued with my oily cream and putting lots and lots of sun cream on. On about the third day we visited the beach and had fun making sandcastles.



Mum said it was time to go for something to eat and we protested but finally packed up and went to the restaurant. We were out eating when my mum saw a glimpse of my back. She was sooo shocked that I had actually burnt. Even after all our careful making sure



that I had lots and lots of suncream on. So it taught me that even though we were being very very careful that you can still get sunburnt. We decided to give the beach a miss for a couple of days and went off on trips instead. Our first trip was to Marineland where we seen dolphins, performing parrots and seals. I really enjoyed it there and we got lots of cool sealife pressies for ourselves and our friends.



Our Holiday went by so fast and I felt like I blinked and it was over. We headed back to the airport and waited for our plane. We got on the plane and I felt as excited and nervous as I did before we got on at Manchester.



We got off the aeroplane at Manchester and the coldness of England hit us. I cant wait to go back on holiday again but even though I was careful with my sun cream etc I will definitely try and be more careful next time. So don't ever complain about your mum thickening you in suncream because she knows best and listen to Alison, Fiona, Louise and Sue because they can help you enjoy your holiday to the best.

Love Robyn x



The Grafters Club

Poem by Rebekah Curwen, Aged 13

Get great care there.

R.V.I.

Alison runs it. She is the best.

Friends are made forever.

Trips and parties galore.

Enjoyable and exciting.

Really fun.

Sensational newsletter.

Coping advice for all buns victims

Lots of people and friends are here.

Use the Centre of Life for the Christmas parties.

Burns Unit.



A massive thank you to all the following people for the support they have given to The Grafters Club over the recent months:

The Children, their families and friends

The League of Friends who funded the Burn Camp Weekend and Lightwater Valley Trip.

The Lord and Lady Mayoress.

Steve Brock Photography, 24 Shoreham Court, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle.

Gillian, Tom and Kyle McCarrell also Steve Hewitson, Lynn Iveson and Alan Myhill for the goodie bags for The Lightwater Valley Trip.

Northumbrian Water and all those mentioned who donated wine for our fundraising stall at Rothbury Street Fair.

Studsvik who have supported the club with donations and will fund this years Christmas party.

Potts who have kindly designed our new logo, stationery and printed our Telegraft Newsletter.

It was a Walk in the Park!



Well done to Lauren, Jenny and their families for completing the walk in the park this August. They collected their sponsor money and boosted The Grafters Club pot to help us fund all our activities.

If you would like to fundraise for The Grafters Club please contact Pauline Buglass on 0191 2137235 and she will be happy to help and support you with your activity.

Oh What a Night!!!!

A huge thank you to Susan, Gary, Grant, Karen and all their family and friends for a fantastic fundraising night in August.

They had singing, raffles, tombola, name the monkey, bingo and dancing. Everyone had a great time and they raised a magnificent £448.30 for The Grafters Club.

Well done and thanks again.

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We would love you to send us any ideas, stories, poems, puzzles, top tips or questions for the Telegraft.

A prize will be awarded for all contributions published.

We would love to hear from you.

Send your ideas to Alison at the address opposite



Dot-to-Dot

