

**What's WBS
up to?**

**We are a
lively local
charity who is
always on the
look out for
other people
to join us!**

**What's hap-
pening in the
coming year?**

2008

**Choral Concert
Quizzes
Treasure Hunt
Barbeque
Monopoly
Marathon
Sponsored Walk
From Darkness
to Light
Carols**

Back page—Space for Children

Our project worker Angie has been working for a year with bereaved children in the borough.

She has visited 14 infant, junior and high schools. All of the schools are extremely happy to find an organisation in the borough which they can refer distressed children to who may be experiencing difficulties at home and school which stem from a bereavement.

Angie has trained a small number of our existing counsellors to work with children, whether it be in the schools, in their own homes or at our centre. All of these new supporters have been CRB checked.

If you know of children who you feel need help in this way, and have spoken to their parents, about our Service, then contact Angie on her WBS mobile phone 07847 534 919 or E-mail her at Angie@thelisteningear.org.uk or ring in to the office on our 24 hour answer phone number.

Small Service with Big Ideas!

We may be a small charity but we are a very enthusiastic one! Just look through our newsletter and see how many activities we have been involved in or plan to run. We welcome new members and invite you to join our League of Friends. We need your support and your prayers.

WBS
The Listening Ear
Tel No: 020 8662 1648
wbs@fish.co.uk
www.thelisteningear.org.uk

Woodside Bereavement Service Newsletter

Christmas 2007

Special Edition

I must remember not to forget!

Christmas traditionally is a family time. When a close family member has recently died and is therefore missing from the annual family celebrations, it tinges a happy season with sadness.

Grieving is hard work. We never recover from a bereavement, but we adapt to life without that special person. We learn to see the world in a new light. We learn how to deal with the old familiar things in our lives with in a new way. Given time we adapt to the changed perspective. We can take comfort from good memories and can eventually share them with others without embarrassment. Life will never be the same—only different.



Woodside Bereavement Service volunteers seek to come alongside those who find the transition hard. We hope that people never need our Service but we are here when you do.

Training Course

The 2007 training course has successfully finished and we welcome 5 new counsellors to our team. Well done everyone! The course which is held each year and is 50 hours a takes place over 12 weeks This year we included a weekend each month which helped the group to gel together quickly. Although we have new trainees each year we are constantly on the look out for suitable people who have a heart for coming alongside those who are grieving. If you are interested or know of someone else who you think might be contact Bobby or Margaret or ring Yvonne at the office.

CARMEN'S CREAM TEA

The final total raised by Carmen at her Cream Tea on 3rd September was £202. Well done and thank you to both Carmen and Andrew.

Card Party coffee morning & balloon race

Thank you to everyone who supported our card party & coffee morning in November. Please remember that we always have a good selection of hand made all occasion cards available—contact the office. Over 100 balloons set off in our race and we are still waiting to find out which balloon travelled the farthest! It seems from the responses so far that they all flew in the direction of Hastings and the south coast.

.From Darkness to Light

Our **From Darkness to Light** memorial service is being held again in December this year. The children from the Woodside Junior school choir will bring a bright note to our time together and deserve a **BIG THANK YOU** for their delightful contribution.



15th Birthday Celebrations

During 2007 WBS celebrated its 15th Birthday. We had the theme for our fundraising during the year of Walk, Bounce and Swim. We are grateful to all those who faithfully supported us by taking part, or sponsoring a participant in our annual green space walk and to those who helped us by joining in with other fundraising events during the year. All those who serve on our management committee and bereavement counselling teams are all volunteers, without whom WBS would not exist. WBS believes that ordinary people can make a difference and they do!



Carols at the Co-op

Once again we plan to hold a street collection outside the Co-op in Addiscombe on Saturday 22nd December. We need your help! Can you spare 2 hours to do a shift of collecting on that day? If you can please contact our office on 020 8662 1648.

PATRON VISITS OUR CENTRE

Our new patron, the Rt Rev Nicholas Baines visited our Centre in Tennision Road in November to meet some of our volunteers, staff and management committee. He is keen to take an interest in our work and we hope that this is only the first of many visits which he will make.

Green Space Walk

Our annual sponsored walk event on 8th September was well supported this year. 13 intrepid walkers set out in perfect hiking weather on a completely new route devised by our fundraiser Eddie Parsons. The weather was just perfect for walking too! This event has raised over £1,000 so far.



W.B.S—working in the Community, coming alongside those who have lost someone close to them