

Botley Bridges is up and running

Botley Bridges Family Support Service – a charitable company- is now up and running. Charity status was awarded in March and sessions and services have now started. The trustees and the steering group for Botley Bridges have worked really hard to get to this point- a lot of forms have been filled in! Both North Hinksey Parish Council and Cumnor Parish Council have supported the venture with financial support and advice and the trustees are extremely grateful for this help.

Botley Bridges are continuing to work with the health visitors who are running their clinic at Botley School on Wednesday afternoons from 1-2.30. We want everyone to have the best start to family life so we provide information and sign post families to other support services which can help with a whole range of issues such as housing, mental health support, benefit entitlement, debt support and domestic abuse. Botley Bridges aims to help families in the local area to be happy, healthy, enjoy the parks and outside spaces in the area and be positive members of the local community.

We have had lots of offers of volunteers and some fantastic volunteers already- look out for them at events in their Botley Bridges shirts.

Stay, Play and Learn sessions have started and the Bump to Baby post -natal support group is due to start on April 7th. Monthly Saturday sessions for dads will also start in April. During the School Summer holidays we will be running sessions in the local parks and at Hillend to provide outside activities for families with children of different ages. Sessions are run by both qualified and paid staff and volunteers.

Botley Bridges are keen to provide the courses that are useful for families and previously provided by the Children's Centre.

A 10 week Family Links Parenting programme will be delivered in conjunction with Branches Young People's Support Services. There will be a minimal cost for this to cover room hire and facilitation- £60 for waged and £20 for unwaged/limited income. This will include the Family Links manual which costs £15. The course will run in the evening from 7-9pm and we hope to start in May. Contact the co-ordinator for more information or if you would like to join the course.

Botley Bridges will continue to run the 2 hour Paediatric First Aid Courses for parents. We know that these courses have been invaluable in the past and resulted in parents being able to deal with accidents and emergencies calmly. There isn't a set date yet but please contact the co-ordinator if you would like to join the next course. The cost for the 2 hour session is £10 per person or £15 per couple (£3 if in receipt of benefits)

For all information about activities run by Botley Bridges please see the website www.botleybridges.org or contact the coordinator on coordinator@botleybridges.org

Sue Dowe- temporary co-ordinator