

# 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

### A brand new year

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## Toni-Marie's Story

I scolded my arm about a year ago when a kettle full of boiling water fell on me. It really hurt and I was screaming for my mam who put me in a bath of cold water and phoned my granddad to take me to the local hospital.

At the hospital they gave me some painkillers and bandaged my arm and I stayed the night. The next morning they told my mam to take me to the R.V.I., at Newcastle.

My mam and my Granddad took me to the R.V.I., and I was really poorly. I was being sick and in lots of pain. They kept me in the R.V.I., and put Biobrane on my arm but that didn't work and it went all green and smelly.

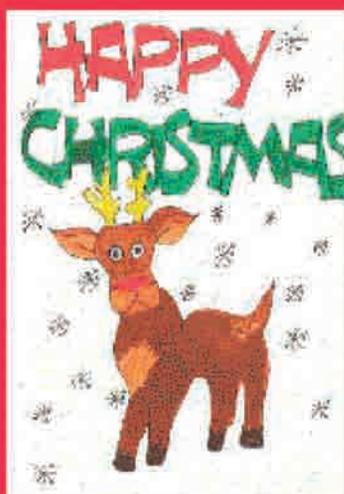
I had to go to the R.V.I., twice a week to get a bath. I used to be scared of going in the bath in case it hurt my arm but once I was in I enjoyed it. I then stayed in hospital another week while I had a skin graft.

I was really scared of getting put to sleep but it was O.K., because I didn't remember anything.

Now my arm is getting better I have to wear a pressure bandage and cream it 4 times a day.

Sometimes people stare at my scar but I'm not bothered I just tell them what happened.

## Christmas Card Competition



Studsvik

Studsvik invited The Grafters Club to design their company Christmas card for 2008. We really enjoyed receiving the cards which were absolutely brilliant and a huge thank you to all those who entered the competition.

Congratulations to Sarah who was chosen as the winner. Thank you to Studsvik for the competition and for their support.

# The Grafters Club Family Day Out



**COME AND JOIN US AT DIGGERLAND**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009**  
**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!**



If you would like to come with us you **MUST BOOK** your place by **MONDAY 18th MAY**.

Following confirmation of your booking we will request a nominal donation of **£5.00 per family**.

If you need help with transport please let us know when you book.

**CONTACT DETAILS ON BACK PAGE**

**NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH**

The Christmas party for 2009 is on  
**Saturday 5th December at The Centre for Life.**

Catch up with your old friends and come along and make some new ones. Put it in your diaries or mark it on the calendar so you don't miss it. We love to see you there.

# A BRAND NEW YEAR

By Jordan Bailey

On the 14th Of June 2008, I was playing with my mates in the park where I live when one of my stunts went horribly wrong. My friends and me decided to light a campfire and I was dared to try and jump it with my skateboard. Needless to say I didn't make it and my trouser leg caught fire.

I told my Mum that I had burnt my leg and we went straight to Hexham General Hospital. When we got there the nurses explained that I would have to go in an ambulance to the burns unit at the RVI hospital in Newcastle.

When we got there I was taken onto ward 1 where I had to stay for what I thought was two days to see if I needed skin grafts on my leg. On my second day in the hospital I was taken into theatre to have skin taken from my left thigh to cover my right leg where the fire had burnt through all my layers of skin. After this I stayed in hospital for another week until I was allowed to go home.

When at home I could not do much and I had to use crutches to get around my house. We were not able to do much at all that Summer as we still needed to go to the hospital twice a week for baths and dressing changes.

Because of missing out on so much in 2008 because of my accident me, my Mam and Matty decided to see in the New Year at Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands. It was brilliant I've never been abroad in the Winter before and it felt strange one day eating our Christmas dinner in England then the next day eating a full English breakfast in the sunshine and seeing Christmas decorations everywhere when I was in my shorts!

I still had to be careful with my leg in the sun, as my skin was still very weak. On the beach I had to wear my swimming shorts, some of my Mums leggings, my pressure garment not forgetting Sun cream to stop any sun getting to my burns! For New Year we went to the beach and watched fireworks! It was fantastic to be outdoors playing in the sand when everyone was singing old Langs eye. Someone even built Homer Simpson in the sand to celebrate the New Year; I got my photo taken with it the next day.

I loved my holiday and the best bit about it was that because of the warmer weather my leg started to look a lot better really quickly. I got a lot of exercise when swimming and this also helped to make the scars on the back of my knee bend a lot easier.

When I got home I had to go straight back to school but I was so happy we had the chance to go away and forget about everything that had happened last year. I had a lot of stories to tell all my friends and they were all very jealous of me, as it had snowed all the time when I was away!





## The Grafters Club News

January started with a get together to discuss the future plans for the Grafters club. A few staff, parents and a "Grafter" had a chat about what they thought the club was about and suggestions were made as to how we could make things better.

It started with the feedback from the Christmas Party which generally was very good but to accommodate the wide age range of children other options may have to be considered.

Diggerland was chosen as the place for this year summers trip (SEE PAGE 3) as it came 2nd in last years vote. In the future it may be that there are 2 activities depending on age but this depends on the funds.

Funds were discussed and as usual we are looking for as many people as possible to fund raise for the club.

Developments include a leaflet which will help with publicity to income generate but itself does cost money which hopefully will be reaped back!

The website is the current project which at the moment still needs a bit of work. If anybody knows somebody who will do it for free let us know!

Parent support was a good talking point. There were some suggestions as to how we could make it easier for parents to mix such as social events like a quiz but was not sure on the level of interest there would be. It was felt that we could work on this at our current events, encouraging the parents of children further down the line get the opportunity to mix with those with the more recent injuries. The parents mentioned that it is in the early days, when still in hospital, that support would have been welcomed and the practical issues of training and CRB checks were discussed and are going to be looked into.

The idea is to have more meetings like this to generate more ideas and help. If you have any suggestions to make or you would like to come to the next meeting (date not decided) please let us know via the contact details on the back page.

### Thank you to the following people for their support over the recent months:

Studsvik for the Christmas card competition, collecting tin and funding our Christmas party.

Nestle Confectionary for the sweets at the Christmas party

Mr Vincent Costello for his donation of £400

Richard Moody who cycled coast to coast and raised £114

The Fire Fighters Charity for their donation of £3000

Potts Printers for printing our Newsletter 'The Telegraft'



# Fundraising

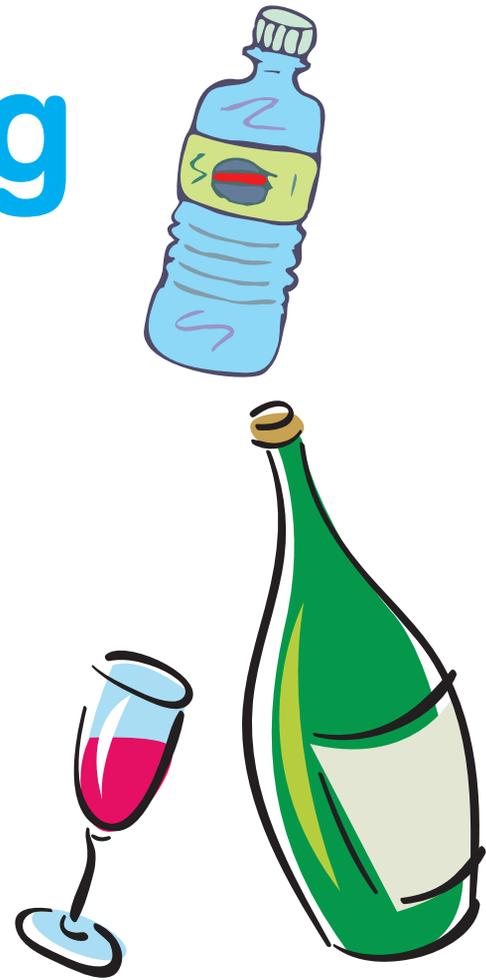
On the Spring Bank Holiday Monday in May last year we had a stall at Rothbury Street Fair. We did a 'Water or Wine' tombola type stall and thanks to a price match from Barclays Bank we raised a magnificent £1000.

Guess what!!! It's that time again and we would like to take this opportunity to help boost the clubs funds.

We hope Northumbrian Water who very generously gave us 400 bottles of water last year will support us again but we need your help to supply the wine. If you have any contacts or if you are able to make a donation please contact Alison on 0191 2820587.

Donations can be left on ward 1 or if you give me a call I will arrange for a collection.

Thank you in anticipation of your generosity and support.



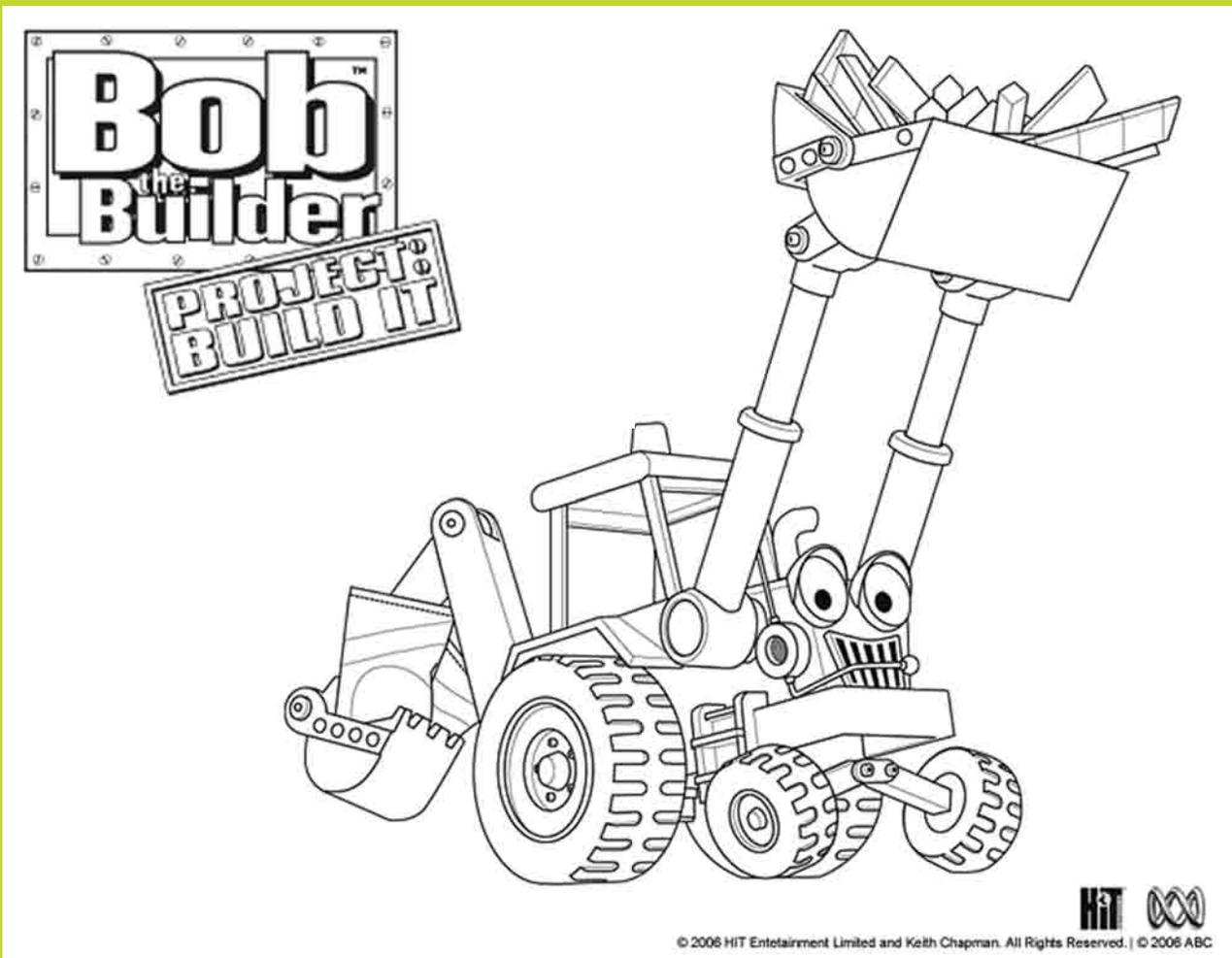
Come to the Fair at Rothbury on Spring Bank Holiday  
Monday 25th May 2009 10.30am - 4.00pm

## Would You Like A Walk in the Park?

The Trust has organised a sponsored walk in the park on Sunday 2nd August 2009.

People can walk to raise funds for their chosen group. If you would like to join The Grafters Club and help us boost our kitty contact Alison on 0191 2820587. We would love to see you there.





## Contact Details:

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

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.