

# Volunteers spanning five decades help Borders' Children



The Borders Children's Charity were beneficiaries themselves the other week, thanks to the generosity of Chris Kurt who ran Marmions' Café Bar at the Borders Book Festival. He offered his Café to enable the current BCC committee to host a coffee morning for past BCC committee members, who over the years have raised and allocated thousands of pounds to help children in the Borders.

The voluntary charity was officially formed in 1966, though some local ladies had been fundraising informally for Borders children as far back as 1964. Over one hundred past committee members have been traced and the pictured group is of current and past members, representing committees spanning over 45 years.

Bronwyn Coggan, Chair of the current committee commented on the changes in communication over the years, "In the early days the ladies met at one of their kitchen tables to plan their fundraising events and agree the allocation of funds. Everything was done by hand writing and telephone which was a slow and very labour intensive process, which show the dedication of these past members time.

"Now so much of this is done by email, text and mobile but it's still the meetings that inspire all the volunteers to keep working hard to help children living in our area who need help, of which sadly there are too many."

"The gathering at the Book Festival was a great opportunity to thank the ladies who have put in such an effort over the years and build the foundations of a charity which today donates 100% of monies raised to local children, a claim not too many charitable organisations can make these days."

Last year, when we raised and gave out in grants over £28,000, providing over 50 beds, over 200 hundred children to participate in activities, over 70 children to attend school trips as well as other funding for many children to make their very difficult lives a little bit better.

Donations to Borders Children's Charity can be made by texting BCCT03 £xx to 70070