

## Bridge of Allan 100 Years Ago

### Testimonial to Miss Brooks, Hydropathic

A large number of the visitors who have stayed at the Bridge of Allan Hydropathic during the last three years will regret that the place where they were wont to see Miss Brooks, the genial and popular assistant and entertainer, shall from henceforth see her no more, as she left on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> inst., for a well-earned holiday, preparatory to entering on her duties at Peebles Hydropathic.

*Stirling and Bridge of Allan Reporter,*  
February 13, 1909

## Even young children suffer from the economic gloom

Local charity Home-Start Stirling (which operates in Bridge of Allan) has expressed its concern about the worrying impact the current economic crisis is having on families with young children.

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity providing friendship, advice and support to families with young children to help them through times of difficulty or stress until they are able to cope on their own again.

Every family knows the unavoidable pressures young children bring, but these pressures can become unbearable when they are exacerbated by the stresses of redundancy or potential homelessness.

At this time of even greater need for everyone due to the economic crisis, Home-

Start is experiencing a higher than normal demand for its service. Sadly, it has no choice but to turn families away - there are insufficient volunteers.

Brenda Simm, Home-Start Stirling Co-ordinator, explains: "Home-Start believes that every parent should have the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life. This can be emotional support to help parents find ways to manage and resolve difficulties; practical help with household budgets and chores; or direct support to children.

"Volunteering with Home-Start is immensely rewarding. We really do change lives. It involves committing only three to four hours a week and the only requirement is to have parenting experience. But don't worry. You don't have to be a Supernanny!"

A short course of preparation for anyone interested in becoming involved will be starting at the end of April. Brenda can be contacted on 01786 445314 or by emailing [admin@homestartstirling.co.uk](mailto:admin@homestartstirling.co.uk)

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