

BIRTHLINK BULLETIN

Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn edition. We hope that you will find something of interest here and that if you are not a Friend of Birthlink, that you think about becoming one. In these times of talk of cutbacks, we need all the friends that we can get. So best wishes of the season and we look forward to your continued support.

October's Link

Readers will know that the Adoption Contact Register for Scotland service reunites people separated by adoption and produces nearly 30 matches (or links) between registrants every year. From time the figure dips and this seems to be the case in 2010. In this Bulletin we have decided to run a detailed account of one of the links that have taken place in October so as to show the human side behind the statistics. Names etc have changed to provide confidentiality.

Anne was 22 when her son Jamie was born in 1970. He was adopted soon after. Anne registered on the Adoption Contact Register (ACR) in 1990 twenty years later and on the day of her son's birthday. On the registration form she said:

"The reason I placed Jamie for adoption was because I felt it was best for him at the time, although there was a great deal of parental pressure. It was a mistake I have regretted ever since"

Anne went on to say that she had had no other children.



Sometime earlier this year, Jamie (now Mark) downloaded an ACR registration form. He completed on October 2nd and we received it ten days later.

Anne now lives in Aberdeen and Mark lives in Canada. Our

next step will be check that Anne is still living at the same address and then we'll have a discussion with Mark as to his hopes and wishes, after which we'll be in a better position to break the news to Anne.

Golden Gift

On the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary Anne and Trevor, two Friends of Bulletin recently decided to invite well-wishers to donate to Birthlink: "the occasion is a family gathering, presents, please. However so no if you

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social work charity relies on donations and small grants for work with issues arising from adoption. Birthlink began the process which led to this very welcome get-together."

Money raised to date amounts to £410. So a great big thank you to Anne and Trevor.



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West Australian Government Adoption Apology transpires

As featured in our last Bulletin, the West Australian Government has now moved to make a formal adoption apology:

"WA adoption apology an Australian first

Western Australia will become the first state to apologise to women, children and families affected by its past adoption practices. Health Minister Kim Hames said on Tuesday that Premier Colin

