

## Editorial

Welcome to our Autumn Bulletin.

This is being written during National Adoption Week (17th-23rd October).



**Adults Affected  
by Adoption**

National Adoption Week traditionally publicises adoption services that place children in adoptive families and therefore the focus is usually child-centred. Here at Birthlink we've been thinking that perhaps one day a year (not a week) could become an opportunity to publicise the needs of the tens of thousands of adults affected by adoptions that have taken place in Scotland. This number includes the 90,000 adopted adults, their birth mothers and birth fathers and their other relatives such as brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and grandparents. Quite a lot of folk when it comes down to it. Enough for an Adoption Day? And what would we call it? Answers on a postcard, or whatever works best for you in this day and age.

### Inside this issue:

### Our Heroes in the Thrift Shops

Top of the Bulletin Bill twice this year



(Staff celebrating after the Great Scottish Walk and Run in June)

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**See next page for another pic of the Stall at the Meadows Festival, same month.**

# BIRTHLINK BULLETIN



**Go  
Thrift  
Shops!**



Birthlink are proud to run two of the oldest thrift shops in Scotland. We sell absolutely everything and anything under the sun, from books, clothes and small electrical items, to furniture, bric a brac and even artwork. Please don't hesitate to come and have bargain hunt.

**Do you have any spare time?** We are looking for Volunteers to help in our Thrift shops, even if it was only an hour, every minute helps. Just pop into one of the shops, call 0131 225 6441 for an application form or send a message via our website and our staff will be happy to assist.



**Next page for BASW Adoption Enquiry...**



Birthlink has been invited to contribute to an enquiry into adoption launched by The British Association of Social Workers. Here's the letter of invite to this important and timely investigation:

I am contacting you to draw your attention to this important Enquiry which the British Association of Social Workers is holding on adoption - particularly on the social work role in this. We are looking for both personal and professional input from everyone affected by adoption, and are looking to address some of the profound ethical issues in the social work role which is central to the adoption and post adoption experiences of everyone affected.

Here is the link to the enquiry webpage and to a briefing paper and a questionnaire that we are asking everyone who wants to contribute to complete and return.

<https://www.basw.co.uk/adoption-enquiry>

We want to ensure to reach as many people who would want to contribute as possible and ask that you draw the Enquiry and the Questionnaire to the attention of your friends and colleagues.

Read more here: <https://www.basw.co.uk/news/article/?id=1251>

and here:

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2016/09/05/love-loss-timescales-whats->

### **National Adoption Week: another perspective in *Community Care***

#### **Adult adoptees are not very often invited to the party**

It's that time of year again and National Adoption Week will be promoted on television, radio and social media.

'Many adoptive families we talk to at The Open Nest, a post-adoption peer support independent charity, and those who write of their experiences on social media find the recruitment aims and celebrations of adoption during this week difficult to square with their own...' now read on:



<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2016/10/20/adopted-children-risk-becoming-displaced-poor/>

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## BIRTHLINK IN THE NEWS

**Latest 'Friends of The Scotsman' article:**

**Anne and Karen's story reveals what is done by Birthlink**



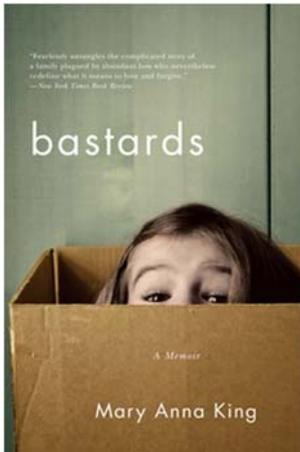
and

**Adoption: Stranger said my parents weren't 'real' - I didn't care**

It never occurred to Michael White there might be something unusual about being adopted, until he was stopped by a woman in the street, age five. "You do know those aren't your real parents?" she said.' Now read on: <http://stv.tv/news/features/1369921->

### Books

In the early 1980s, Mary Hall is a little girl growing up in poverty in Camden, New Jersey USA, with her older brother Jacob and parents who, in her words, were "great at making babies, but not so great at holding on to them." After her father leaves the family, she is raised among a commune of mothers in a low-income housing complex. Then, no longer able to care for the only daughter she has left at home, Mary's mother sends Mary away to Oklahoma to live with her maternal grandparents, who have also been raising her younger sister, Rebecca. When Mary is legally adopted by her grandparents, the result is a family story like no other. Because Mary was adopted by her grandparents, Mary's mother, Peggy, is legally her sister, while her brother, Jacob, is legally her nephew. Living in Oklahoma with her maternal grandfather, Mary gets a new name and a new life. But she's haunted by the past: by the baby girls she's sure will come looking for her someday, by the mother she left behind, by the father who left her. Mary is a college student when her sisters start to get back in touch. With each subsequent reunion, her family becomes closer to whole again. Moving, haunting, and at times wickedly funny, *Bastards* is about finding one's family and oneself.



### Research

Birthlink is funding research into the long-term outcomes of reunions that have taken place via the Adoption Contact Register for Scotland (ACR).

Dr Gary Clapton, with the help of Birthlink searcher and supporter Jennifer McNiven, has begun to look at ACR reunions from 20 years ago up until ten years ago so as to capture as many accounts of reunions and contact that are at least ten years old. The first stage has involved drawing up a list of these. The next stage will involve contacting every one of the parties concerned. Watch this space.

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