



Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome to the January 2012 edition of “Jigsaw” – our e-newsletter for all members and friends of Marlborough & District NCT.

Have you all got a copy of our really great “**Winter 2011 Newsletter**”? This is the paper version that you will have received in the post if you are an NCT member. You can also get your copy at your local nursery, at toddler groups, in and around Marlborough or just ask us to send you a copy! Now I am very chuffed that my little Hector was chosen to be cover star but guess what.....your angel could be **the next cover star!** Thank you for all your entries, we will let you know in due course who the winner is.

So I have seen the first advert for Easter Eggs! Amazing, Christmas has barely gone and we still have Valentine’s Day, Pancake day and Mothering Sunday to enjoy. We are so excited that we now have Abi on board as Event Coordinator and with lots of new faces on our branch team we are hoping to organise some new and different events this year – so look out for details in the usual places

As I have mentioned in the past we wanted to find someone to take on the Branch Chair once I had returned to work. Well how quickly those 6 months have gone! Maternity leave over, back to work and the Annual Members Meeting was this month ...and the fantastic news is that we have found not one but TWO people. I have the pleasure in handing over the chair to Mr James and Mrs Laura Jackson! They will take on the roles as co-chair and have already started recruiting! You will hear more about them and the new members of the Branch Team in the *New Faces* section. All very exciting! They have lots of new ideas, a very cute baby and plenty of energy!

So as well as these monthly updates, all the information can be found on our website. Please bookmark this page and keep abreast of the things that are going on and matter to you both locally and nationally. If you think we are missing something then send us a mail and let us know.

Have a great February, keep warm – looking forward to seeing you in and around Marlborough or even in April at the Nearly New Sale, which I will still be organising with the Sale team.

Fondest regards

Lucy Brenk

(outgoing) Branch Chair, Marlborough and District NCT



Our distribution list is made up of both NCT members and friends and volunteers past and present. So although not all the news may be relevant to you, there should be something for everyone. Please forward it on to anyone you think might be interested. If however, you wish to be removed from this monthly mailing list, please let us know by mailing “unsubscribe” to nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk

This month covers the following topics. Please click on the link to be taken to the relevant section.

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New Faces



- *Laura Jackson, Branch Co-Chair, mum to Anaiis 9 months, and wife to James!*

I'm really looking forward to being a part of the NCT. The past year has been great and I've never been happier being a Mummy. I am due to return to working with special needs children in an educational setting so I hope I can offer something new and reach out to different families with my knowledge and experience. Anaiis, James and I look forward to meeting some new faces!

- *James Jackson, Branch Co-Chair, aged 30 and currently lives in Collingbourne Ducis with the new co-chair Laura my wife and 9 month old daughter Anaiis.*

I'm excited about getting Dads more involved in the NCT as we often get forgotten. Fatherhood is amazing but not without its challenges and I hope I can offer support and friendship to newcomers. We have plenty of ideas up our sleeves so watch this space!



- *Lucy Brenk, Membership Secretary and Nearly New Sale coordinator, mama to Hendricus 4, Beatrix 2 and Hector 6 months*

Lucy has just stood down as Branch Chair and has taken on the role of (interim) Branch Secretary. She is well known for coordinating the Nearly New Sales, and will continue to do so this year. She has just returned to full-time work but would much rather be on a beach somewhere hot!

- *Caroline Bar, Newsletter team, mum to Elliot 21 months*
Caroline is a stay-at-home mum who escaped London for countryside living in September last year.



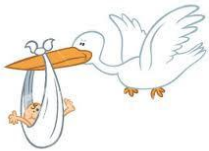
Our Winter Newsletter – NOW AVAILABLE



All members should now have received a copy of their Winter newsletter. We have also distributed them to child day care and nurseries in the area, toddler groups, doctor surgeries, Children's Centre etc. If you would like a copy or would like to distribute them to groups near you, please let us know.

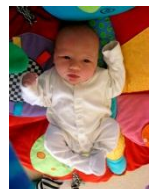
If you have any ideas for content or would like to contribute an article - get in touch for our Spring edition.

The Stork Club



Emilia Kathryn Rose Stewart - born 3 November 2011 weighing 8lb 12.5oz, a sister for Oscar and Isobel. Very proud parents Lizzie & Andrew Stewart.

George Edward Hastle was born at 4.40am on Friday 11 Nov to Mum Helen and Dad Neil. He weighed 4.38 kg (9 lb 10). George is doing really well and Eric is delighted with his little brother. He was born at the birth centre at GWH with a water birth.



Congratulations to all the bumps that are now babes in Marlborough & District since the last newsletter! Anyone wishing to announce the birth of their little one this year in 'Jigsaw' or in our Spring Newsletter – please send a photo and details to Emma @ nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk by end February.

Don't miss!

➤ NCT Café

We are running an **open** house bumps and babes meet up for mums, dads, all new members, non-members and anyone interested to join us for a chat and a cuppa **every Monday from 10am**. We are currently holding this in the left hand lounge at the Sun Inn, Marlborough High Street. Please bring own toys if required. The venue and date will be changing soon – we will let you know asap. A member of the committee will be there to meet and greet! We look forward to seeing you.

- We are looking to set up a buddy network so that you can get to know other mums closer to home. If you would like to volunteer to help organise meetings in Marlborough, Pewsey, Burbage and outer lying villages, please do let Laura know on nctbumpsandbabes@yahoo.co.uk.

Facebook fan

- Look for us under Marlborough & District NCT. We are always looking for more fans on our Facebook page. We'd love the site to be interactive, so please link us to any appropriate content or events. Or add your own comments and questions! If you're looking for a child minder or nanny share – use us to ask the question!
- James has already set up a **NCT Marlborough Dads** Open Group on Facebook. Just look us up. You don't have to be an NCT member; we just want suggestions and ideas! All meet up points will be child friendly and an opportunity to let off steam and meet new faces!



A message from James: *"This is a group for especially for the Marlborough and district area (postcodes sn8 and sn9). Why should the girls have all the fun eating cake and drinking coffee?! We will be organising events for Dads to get together, watch this space! Please pass the message on to all dad's and male carers."*



A date for your diaries ladies and gents - our next sale will be held at St John's School on

SUNDAY 22nd April 2012

We've got something to shout about!



We have become a Gold Standard Sale, this recognition being achieved in December 2011. NCT Nearly New Sales are such a vital part of the charity's fundraising that the NCT has created a new way for branches to publicly demonstrate the success of their sales. The Gold Standard is a clear sign to potential customers that the sale is among the best in the UK, both in terms of providing exceptional value essentials for parents and achieving fantastic fundraising success for NCT.

So a huge thank you to all those involved – the branch NNS team, the volunteers on the day, the buyers, the sellers and all those that help us make the event the success it is.

Please take a look at our Facebook page for some really great photos. See what all the fuss is about!
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Marlborough-and-District-NCT/119835063302>

STATS & FACTS

- * In 2011 we sold almost £19,000 worth of second hand children's clothes, toys and equipment. That is an amazing amount of stuff being recycled, and about £6000 raised for the NCT charity (national and local).
- * Did you know that approx. 50% of our buyers in October were new compared with those that shopped in the Spring sale?
- * 300 people came through the doors and that doesn't even include the 60 people working on sale day.
- * We sold 2807 items: 1691 toys/equipment and 1125 items of clothing

Would you like to be a seller or a volunteer at the best nearly-new children's sale in the area? Please let us know on nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk

➤ **NCT antenatal and postnatal courses**

For more information regarding courses in our area, please call Melanie on 0844 2436947 or send a mail to bookings3d@nct.org.uk .

You can also see a list of courses on our website www.nct.org.uk/branches/marlborough/courses

Great News! Marlborough & District now has two 'in area' antenatal teachers – Jude Buckell & Sam Rose.



Finally, last October Jude completed the final assignments for her diploma in Antenatal Teaching and is now a qualified antenatal teacher! She has taught a number of courses for the NCT already as a student and is looking forward to building on this experience in the coming months and years.



Jude said “ *It has been quite hard work over the last three years fitting in all the studying whilst having two babies (now 3yrs and 18 months), but well worth it! I have loved learning more about how incredible women's bodies are in terms of growing and birthing babies, and the amazing journey of parenthood. It is such a privilege to be alongside pregnant women and their partners at this intense time in their lives. I have been lucky to have such great parents attending my courses, and been delighted to see how the groups have bonded, creating their own new network of support and strong friendships.*”

CONGRAULATIONS JUDE FROM ALL AT THE BRANCH TEAM

➤ **First aid courses**

We run regular first aid courses at the Children’s Centre in Marlborough together with Angels First Aid

- These courses are NOT exclusively for NCT members, so please pass the information on to anyone that might be interested.
- For anyone involved in the care of a child
- Applicable for children from birth to 12 years of age
- Cost £30 per person
- Phone 01380 870344 or email nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk to register interest
- We have not announced the dates of the next courses yet, please contact us to be put on our invitation list

➤ For general enquiries about any of the courses run in our area please phone 0844 2436203 or email nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk

Have you heard about...

- Next Door Coffee Shop – 14, High Street in Pewsey – at last, a great child friendly café. They have sofas, which are comfy and easy to breastfeed, they have plenty of high chairs and a baby changing toilet. They also serve caffeine free coffee. Please call 01672 569383 to reserve your sofa or three, or indeed if you would like to hold any meetings here. It really seems to do just about everything.

Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9:00-17:00

Sat: 09:00 - 15:00



Find them on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Next-Door-Coffee-Shop/117965381555096?sk=wall#!/pages/Next-Door-Coffee-Shop/117965381555096?sk=wall>



easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise funds for a good cause of your choice. You shop online with your favourite stores and you raise money at the same time. It's that easy!

You could help Marlborough and District NCT raise money by shopping on line with:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marlboroughnct>

You can access and purchase from over 2000 brand name retailers like Amazon, Argos, Apple, Boots.com, Boden, eBay, Cath Kidston, John Lewis, Halfords, Snapfish, The White Company, Travellodge, Vodafone.

For example, spend £50 with [Boden](#) and you'll raise £1.25. Insure your car with the [RAC](#) and they'll donate up to £30 to your cause. Take out a new mobile contract with [Vodafone](#) and raise up to £45.00...we could go on!

What's more, they work closely with their retailers to find [voucher codes and discounts](#) so you can save money on your shopping too.

How much can I raise?

Donations vary between retailers but an average donation is 5% of your spend. Some insurance and mobile retailers pay a substantial one-off donation of up to £50. The donation amount is shown directly next to each retailer listing and your cause will receive 100% of the donation shown. For example, if the donation shown is 2.5%, your cause will receive 2.5p for every £1 you spend.

If everyone reading this just did this once – we'd raise quite a bit of money – how easy is that!

You can also use <http://marlboroughnct.easysearch.org.uk/> to do your internet searches. This will also raise money for us.

See our website at <http://www.nct.org.uk/branches/marlborough-district/fundraising-marlborough-nct> for more details. Thanks

All the mentions in this section are just interesting companies and links that we have stumbled across. They do not have an affiliation with the NCT and nor have they paid to be in the newsletter. I hope you like them!




The Team

Marlborough & District NCT is run entirely by volunteers. If you have some spare time and would like to meet other people in the area and support the services that the NCT provides locally there are many ways to get involved. Do get in touch with us if you are interested as we have VACANCIES!

Annual Members Meeting

The next Annual members meeting will be held in May 2012. Look on our website for details.

- Branch contact details and for any of the team members
 W: www.nct.org.uk/branches/marlborough
 E: nctmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk
 T: 0844 243 6203

<p>Laura and James Jackson</p> 	<p>Branch Co-Chairs Committee member (mandatory role)</p>
<p>Lucy Brenk</p> 	<p>Membership Secretary & NNS Coordinator Committee member (mandatory role)</p>
<p>Becca Campbell</p> 	<p>Branch Treasurer Committee member (mandatory role)</p>
<p>TBC</p>	<p>Parent Services Coordinator Committee member (mandatory role) E: nctbumpsandbabes@yahoo.co.uk</p>

Emma Butler		Newsletter Editor Committee Member
Sarah Bruen		Web Master
Abi Pack		Events Coordinator
Vacancy		Publicity Officer
Emma Butler Alex Lazarus Caroline Bar		Newsletter Team
Lucy Brenk Briar Holdsworth Elisabeth Allcorn David Butler Robert Lockie Tamara Reay Helen Hastle		Nearly New Sale Team
Jude Buckell		Antenatal Teacher