

News Release:

18 August 2009

**ESSEX-BRANCH OF THE FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY
DRIVES TO ATTRACT THE 'YOUNG AT HEART'**

Local event raises over £500 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association

17 August 2009; An Essex-branch based in Warley of the Foresters Friendly Society has raised over £500 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) by organising a successful entertainment festival.

Branch secretary, Lucy Clements (aged 21) arranged 'The Young at Heart Festival' which took place on Saturday 13th June at the IRDSA Hall in Barkingside. She was supported by fellow young members of the Foresters Friendly Society in the area to provide entertainment throughout the day for over 100 children and young adults who attended the event.

The attractions included an athletic acrobatics show and evening performances by several local bands entertaining the crowds with rock, punk and acoustic music. The musical entertainment was opened by with a special appearance and performance by local rapper, Graham Martin, known as 'GFB'.

All performers gave their time for free and the event raised over £500 for the MNDA, the Foresters Friendly Society's nominated charity during 2009.

Foresters Friendly Society branch secretary Lucy Clements said: "This is the first time we've taken the initiative to reach out to young members of our local community and we are truly delighted with the response. The children had a great time having their faces painted, making dream catchers and playing with poi and hoops."

The Foresters Friendly Society, which celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, has a long history of supporting charities in the UK. Last year also saw Society members raise more than £45,000 for CLIC Sargent, a children's cancer charity.

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Lucy Clements continued: “Foresters Friendly Society branches support a wide range of charitable causes across the UK as well as looking after the interests and well-being of its members. Besides raising valuable funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association we’ve also seen several new members join the Society as a direct result of attending on the day.”

“I am grateful for the support of all our local Society members who helped to make this event a great success and something we’re now looking forward to repeating in the future.”

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Notes to Editors

About Foresters Friendly Society

Foresters Friendly Society was founded in 1834 and offers a range of financial saving, investment, insurance and protection products, as well as educational grants and healthcare support for its members. All financial products come with the accompanying benefits of membership of the Society at no additional cost. There is no obligation to purchase a financial product in order to become a member. The Society currently includes over 70,000 members across 250 UK branches.

About The Motor Neurone Disease Association

The Motor Neurone Disease Association has a vision of a World free of MND.

The Association was formed in 1979 by a group of volunteers who wanted to co-ordinate support, guidance and advice for people affected by the illness. It now consists of 1,500 volunteers and over 120 paid staff, all dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by MND, now and in the future.

The Associations network expands across 95 Branches and Groups, who provide local support, and raise funds and awareness of the Association

A network of 15 Care Centres across England, Wales and Northern Ireland offering quality multidisciplinary team care and raising the standards of care for everyone with MND Regional Care Development Advisers who support people with MND through educating and influencing local Health and Social Care Professionals and services

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