

## **GROUND-BREAKING COURSE FOR KENT GRANNIES RETRAINS THEM FOR MOTHERHOOD SECOND TIME AROUND**

A ground-breaking new course for grandparents is being run in Burham, Kent. Designed as a refresher class for grandparents; the classes aim to equip the ‘granny graduates’ for their role as a grandparent and inform them on all things relating to modern parenting. The classes are being run by a registered Midwife, Sally Underdown and the team behind Grannynet, a website established to support the nation’s 7 million grandmothers<sup>1</sup>.

The Grannynet Course will be held at the Burham Children’s Centre, from 1.30 until 3.30pm on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October and will run for five weeks. The class will cover topics such as resuscitation, weaning and community support, as well as the minefield that is modern-day equipment. The class aims to give the granny graduates the confidence to be really ‘hands on’ with their grandchildren.

Another important role that the course will play is in forging relationships amongst the grandmothers. These substantial communities of over-fifty-year-old women, who are caring for their grandchildren, are currently fulfilling their roles with no support network. Grannynet hopes that their courses will establish a meeting place for today’s grandparents, in the same way that the National Childbirth Trust has for mothers.

Grannynet was established in 2007 by Verity Gill, as a community-based website aimed at British grandmothers that look after their grandchildren. It offers members an interactive forum, as well as tips and advice on a wide range of relevant subject

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<sup>1</sup> Future Foundation

areas like activities, shopping and family life. Verity says: “It’s all about enabling our grannies to be the best granny she possibly can, whilst having a bit of fun and sharing their point of view on childcare issues.”

Commenting about the grannynet course Verity says: “We are really excited about the launch of this initiative. My mother cares for my two children one day every week and would have loved the opportunity to go on a course like ours. We hope to make sure our grandparents are fully armed to do the best possible job they can for their growing families.”

The Grannynet Course is being offered for free by the Burham Children’s Centre. To sign up please call Jacqui Norwood on 07872 466933 or 01634 686472.

To register your interest in a future grannynet class and to become a member, visit [www.grannynet.co.uk](http://www.grannynet.co.uk)

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**Note to Editors:**

**About grannynet.co.uk:** Founded in 2007 by Verity Gill, is the grandparents’ website offering tips and support for grandparents.

*Commenting on grannynet.co.uk Dr Miriam Stoppard, OBE "All grandparents need support and I can't think of a better way of finding that support than by logging on to grannynet, where grandparents will find lots of useful information and will automatically join a friendly family network of other grandparents. It's a way of making being a grandparent more joyful and fulfilling than ever before."*

This course is based on an original idea from The Jennifer Brown Research Fund supported by PiggyBankKids, charity registration number 1092312.