

Ciao Bambini!

Host Families Needed for Italian Students

Last summer three Italian boys came to stay in the Wychwoods. They stayed with three wonderful families in Milton and were taken out and about at the weekend and shown lots of different aspects of English life.

This year some more students are coming, girls and boys aged between 14 and 16 and I am hoping to find homes for them where there is a teenage child. They arrive with Chiara, their tutor, who is a friend of ours, and she stays with us.

They will arrive about **10th July** and stay for one week. On the weekdays we will

take them to places of interest and return them to their host families in the late afternoon and at weekends they will be with the host families, fitting in with village life and activities.

The object is to improve their English and make friends.

Might You Host a Student?

If you are interested in hosting a student and would like more details, please phone or email: Jill Mavin on: 01993 831091 themavins66@hotmail.com

Jill Mavin

A Very Special Friendship: Italian Style

Back in 1974, when we lived in Maidenhead, I replied to an advert in the local paper to find host families for visiting Italian students. A delightful 14-year old girl, Paola, came to stay with



us for three weeks. She was on a school trip and attended classes every morning at the convent school, was taken out on trips most afternoons and spent the weekends with us.

She and her friends missed their home cooking and asked if they could prepare a meal in my kitchen. I was happy to agree as long as Gordon and I were invited to eat with them. My confidence wavered slightly when I returned home to find 13 excited girls in my tiny kitchen, cooking with Pyrex dishes sitting on the hotplates of my electric oven!

When Paola returned home we continued

to write letters and a firm friendship developed, although it was several years before we met up again. In 1988 we went to Italy to attend Paola and Fabio's wedding

and met the extended family. In 2002 Paola, Fabio and their two children came to Shipton for our daughter Beth's wedding. Whenever we go to Italy on holiday we try to stay near their home town of Perugia so that we can spend time with them all. We have become part of the family and have been lucky to enjoy this very special friendship.

So if you are tempted to take up Jill Mavin's offer my advice would be – GO FOR IT! And you too may be blessed with a special friendship.

Christine Halliday