



AGM - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009-2010

This is my second and final year of Chair and over the time I have had great pleasure in meeting the committed parents of children who have attended the Pre-School and seeing the children under the careful guidance of Natasha and Christine developing into young people ready to start school properly and who all loved their time at Pre-School.

This year as before we have been worried about child numbers and the amount of income coming through and yes it has been tough. Cash reserves have been eaten into and the committee has been looking into ways of boosting the coffers through fund raising events and making requests to other organisations for assistance.

Last December we once again held the Christmas Bazaar this time breaking records for the amount raised, over £1800, much due to the raffle ticket sales and the very kind donations of prizes. I would especially like to thank George and Janet Collins of Ponte Comm Ltd who donated a fabulous 1st Prize of a Toshiba 32" LCD TV. I would also like to thank everyone who helped sell tickets and those who helped on the day running stalls, making teas and taking the cash, well done. In addition over the year we have raised funds from Wellie Waddles, Chocolate Tombolas (always a winner) and the Monthly Pub Quiz in the Chequers Inn (thanks to Joy & Ash and to all the great teams and quizmasters) - and this year the Pre-School Team won on two occasions, another record.

Sushma Kofkin (our accountant) keeps excellent records and David Connor (our Treasurer) does a great job to ensure the day to day finances of Pre-School are seen to and keeps us informed of where shortfalls might be - this year we have had to dig deep and the balance books are much lower than I would hope. However we have had some encouraging contact from the Goodwill Fund to help pay some bills and child numbers are on the increase again.

Once again the staff, Natasha and Christine, work hard often beyond

what is expected of them and often during their own time and so should be especially thanked for their efforts and we all know how much the children love them, which makes it such a great place for them to go.

Darryl Kofkin has wielded his marketing knowhow with interviews on Biggles FM, articles in the Villager and Biggleswade Chronicle boosting the reputation of the pre-school. Sushma has also maintained and managed the Website which is fast becoming the central Portal for events, news and information.

Thanks also to Donna who has managed the rotas, obtained the all important government funding and fundraising.

At this time of year we need to say some goodbyes to committee members and some welcomes to new members. As mentioned I will be stepping down as Chair and handing over the reins to Lisa Stutley who since joining as Secretary last year has kept our records up to date, completed staff reviews and I know will make an excellent Chair. Dave Connor will be leaving as Treasurer and this role being picked up by Lorna MacAtear, Naimh Blake will be the Secretary, Lisa Bird & Sally Stone on fundraising.

And finally I want to say thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Pre-School this year, especially Clive, Helen, Lisa B and everyone whether that contribution has been time, money, chocolate, expertise or merely support, it is most welcome, without it we would not be able to operate and the community would lose a great asset.

Good luck.

Martin Bubear (Chairman 2009 / 2010)