

SOUTH BRENT OLD SCHOOL CENTRE



Totnes Road, South Brent,
DEVON. TQ10 9BP
Tel: 01364 72700
Fax: 01364 72700

Email: centre.manager@southbrent.co.uk
Website: www.theoldschool.org

Newsletter February 2009

Message from the Chair

Autumn 2008 was another busy season at the Old School. We welcomed new Trustees at the AGM and our new look 'Brentathon and on' was very successful. With the winter market a total of £1942.12 was raised, which will help with maintenance costs.

Vacant offices in the School House were let after redecoration and the final window of seven was replaced in December as well as two small windows in the front porch. Thanks are due to RWE Joinery for their excellent workmanship and to all those individuals and businesses who contributed over the year. To date we have raised £7,520 from local authorities and an amazing £8,580 from individuals and businesses. Many thanks to everyone and well done South Brent.

Looking ahead - we are now seeking funding for other urgent needs with priority to be given to an easy access, automatic main door and an enclosed kitchen in which we can have a cooker. This is with the new Lunch Club in mind and also all those lovely fundraising breakfasts!

A welcome is due to Lyn Dent as new library coordinator and many, many thanks to Doe for ten such successful years.

We would like to invite you all to a party on the evening of March 21st to launch our new logo and develop ideas for regular arts, music and dance events to be held at the Old School. If you would like a chance to perform at events or wish to request a particular band or class, please let us know on andy@dirtrack.demon.co.uk. A Spring Music Festival is also planned in May and Roland will organize an Auction of Promises in the Springso there will be plenty to continue to keep us busy

Beatrice Campbell

Keeping Brent on its Feet!

There is a really interesting project out there, which could both benefit the village and provide income to the Old School. It is the “My Life My Choice Nail Cutting Project” funded by the Department of Health through Devon County Council and Devon Primary Care Trust because neglected toe nails can affect mobility, limiting quality of life and leading to other health problems.

Volunteers are urgently needed to train as nail cutters for this project. Stephanie Bromley, who has put work into starting this up, has been very disappointed to discover that she cannot complete the training because she has developed a shaky hand. She has found the training to be interesting and supportive and has felt she has learned a great deal about podiatry and she would very much like to see the project properly launched as there is a clear need out there in the community.

It is estimated that there could be as many as 60 people in the Brent area who would benefit from this service, because they cannot cut their own toenails and cannot afford the services of a private podiatrist. Under the terms of the project customers would pay only £5.50 for each session – so if you have a steady hand and an interest in supporting the community why not find out more?

It should be possible to complete the training in two days of induction plus three half days of practical training. This involves attending a podiatry clinic and, under close supervision, using special clippers to cut the nails of those patients who have reasonably straightforward conditions.

Many people have asked Stephanie if the work is unpleasant in any way but she tells us that plastic gloves, a protective apron and antiseptic wipes along with careful training ensure that the risk of infection is minimal. Stephanie is happy to talk to anybody who might be interested and you can contact her on: stephanie.bromley@bopenworld.com or ring her on 01364 72352, but remember she’s deaf and may struggle to hear you unless you speak very clearly.

Old School Trustees

Community Library

The Community Library continues to be a popular feature of the Centre. From July – December 2008, client visits numbered 1371, with 3545 books borrowed. (Thanks to Ron Akehurst for the stats.)

Founder Doe Mason retired from her role as organizer in January. A pleasant evening was held in the Centre to mark her retirement. Doe has also received the award of Reading Champion as part of last year's National Year of Reading, and will collect her award from Sarah Brown at Downing St, in March. This is a well-deserved tribute to someone who has given so much time and commitment to the library over the last ten years. Doe will continue as a volunteer librarian; I have taken over as organiser, and am looking forward to the challenge!

Donations of books in good condition are always welcome, and can be brought into the library during opening hours. At the moment we would particularly appreciate donations of children's books (up to age 10), which will either be sold at the Easter Fair on March 28, to raise funds for the pre-school, or added to library stock.

Thanks for continuing to support the library.

Lyn Dent

The Old School Centre Lunch Club

The Lunch club for over sixty's began with a trial run on 1st December 2008. This being voted successful it has been followed by two further lunches. The last being a sell out with 40 diners. The Lunch club is run by teams of volunteers all from the village or close by and it operates on alternate Mondays from 12 midday to 2 pm. On offer is: homemade soup with a bread roll and butter, a choice of two puddings with cream or custard and tea or coffee with chocolates, all at a cost of £2.50.

Roland Mason plays the piano while people arrive and the whole atmosphere is very convivial. After such a promising start we hope that the lunch club will become a regular feature of life in the village.

Future dates are 16th February and 2nd and 16th March, Annie Halliday

Pre School News

In November 08, we were delighted to welcome a new Committee to Pre-School; Debra Dean Chadwick is our new Chair with 6 other members who are all working hard to ensure our success!

Plans for the future include extended afternoon sessions which we will be rolling out from the summer term, a start to our aim of full day wrap around care. One change already instigated is the arrival of 2 year olds to Pre-School, due to our new registration with Ofsted and the forward thinking of the new committee. Our first 2 year olds started with us at the end of January and we hope to welcome many more...

'Busy Brent Bees' our parent/toddler group is ever growing, the toddler group is run by Claire Kendall with Becky Bone, who have both worked hard to improve these sessions.

These are exciting times for Pre-School, a new curriculum to work with since September 08, a new committee and a team of staff dedicated to our Pre-School. Why not come along and find out more.....

Sherida Mould, Manager

The AGM reports and the accounts are available from Glyn on request

Dates for Your Calendar

Lunch Clubs 16th Feb 2nd 16th and 30th March and continuing fortnightly.

Logo Launch Party 7pm Saturday 21st March

Pre-School Easter Fair Saturday 28th March

Spring Festival Weekend 16th – 17th May

Auction of PromisesPromised for the Spring!

Membership

If a membership form is included your renewal for 2009 is due. Please take the payment to Glyn at the Old School Office.