

# **SOUTH BRENT OLD SCHOOL CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

Thank you all for attending the AGM tonight, this being the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre opening for business.

The report tonight will cover the Centres financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

The management committee has been discussing the way of the committee structure and what can be changed to make the running of the centre more streamlined, this will be discussed later in the meeting.

The big event in the year was finally to pay in December the outstanding £2600 off the loan used in purchasing the Old School Site. It may have taken more than 10 years to pay but it is an achievement in itself and well worth waiting for.

In the New Year the Old School received an anonymous donation of £ 5000. It came with conditions that it should be used for the improvement of the Old School and has enabled the Condition Survey of the Main Old School building. This has been done as a Data Base for computer operation; the survey is broken down into various priorities and time scale with estimated costs for any remedial work. The rest of the donation was used towards the replacement of two rotting windows in the Pre School part of the building. Who ever the benefactor was very many thanks indeed.

The Committee is still pursuing other funding applications, which includes the Big Lottery Community Building Fund, a decision is due shortly.

## **The School House**

The School house continues to be well used, and is making a good contribution to the finances of the Centre. In view of the lack of use for the drop in area by the Charities, the committee decided to create another office out of the area this has been let and now contributing towards the Centre.

## **Courses and Activities.**

The Centre continues to provide all manner of courses and other activities and along with the income from the School House make a substantial contribution to the Old School. The DCC Community Learning Group continues to use the Computer room and have brought numerous people into the centre.

There are all manner of other courses including the Ballet which seems to engulf the building on Thursday and Friday evenings.

I think a big thank you to Glyn the Centre Manager for all his efforts in not only liaising with course providers, but trying to organise the program at the beginning of each term, particularly when course providers change their minds at last minute.

We still provide a Public access internet point with computer, printer and use of digital camera, situated in the main area during normal hours. There is also wireless network access; all this has been well used by many people, including using their own computers on the wireless network.

### **Community Library**

The Library is as well stocked as ever, with the number of borrowers continue to be maintained at a high level.

Many thanks to Do Mason and all her co-librarians, in keeping the library up and running.

### **Corridor Gallery**

The Corridor Gallery is now being run by Jilly Elford, the standard of exhibitions continues to outstanding in the past year. During the year the display boards were relined using Hessian, this was done with the aid of grants from various organisations

### **Pre School**

The Pre School Centre is a completely independent run organisation under the umbrella of the Old School. During the year they managed to complete the refurbishment of the Play Barn, turning a derelict building into a useful asset for the Pre School. The electrical supply to the Pre School area has now been separated and they have their own metered supply. The Committee, Manager and all the Staff of the Pre School are to be congratulated on their continued success in the running of the facility.

### **Fundraising**

The Annual Brentathon was held in November 2006 and raised the sum of £2388. Thanks to Steve Dowe and all his helpers for all their efforts in running a most enjoyable event. The funds raised were used in repaying the outstanding loans, as previously mentioned.

There was the Winter Market, which was well supported and was most successful, thanks to everyone's efforts. There have been many other fund raising events during the year, many thanks to all those who organised, helped or attend these events.

Thanks are also due to Naomi Gibson who has continued in the role of co-ordinating the fund raising, and finding various other areas where we may be able to get grants for the Old School.

## **Membership**

Membership of the Old School still stands at around 500. The membership secretary was carried out by Jo Rhys Jones, but has had to give up due to pressure of other commitments, many thanks to Jo for all her efforts. The membership secretary is currently being looked after by Bea Campbell, of course as usual the collection of the subscriptions continues to prove as hard as other years.

The use of standing orders at the bank to pay subscriptions continues to help in the collection, as has the life membership. This cost of £50 and has been taken up by over 50 members and if any one needs details please speak to the Treasurer David Kinross. The subscriptions as ever are used in the upkeep of maintenance of the Old School buildings and it is very important that we keep this level up.

## **Management**

A word of thanks to all the members of the management committee who have turned up at the regular monthly meetings, which sometimes go on longer than suitable, hopefully this will be sorted out during the reorganisation of the committee structure. There have however been some in depth discussions and debates over the way forward, which I think shows their commitment to the Old School. I am happy to report that all the committee members are willing to stay on for another year.

During the year Sue Bonnin resign from the committee due to pressure of other work, many thanks sue for all your efforts.

We have continued with the newsletter, this was produced by Sue Burgess, with a little bit of help from various contributors. Many thanks Sue for all the effort. The security of the Old School at weekends, holiday time and when the manager is away is now done by Ron Akehurst, many thanks to Ron.

## **Thanks**

The Management Committee would like to thank all members who helped the Old School during the year, as volunteers, as users of the centre or with financial support, and to our paid staff Glyn Richards and Sue Wells, whose efforts are much appreciated.

Thanks from me for the assistance and advice from Sue Burgess the Vice Chairman, David Kinross the Treasurer, who will present the accounts shortly, and to Ross Kennerley the Secretary who manages to get the minutes out in time for all the meetings. My personal thanks to Glyn Richards, whose efforts and time, especially in maintaining the computerised accounts, much unpaid, have made the running of the Old School seem effortless, and as I say every year, I expect Glyn may still think otherwise.

## **Finally**

As you all may be aware, I am standing down as Chairman at this AGM, and I will also be leaving the committee.

When I came to the very first meeting over 10 years ago, I had no idea what the old School could or would be used for, what I did know is that I did not want it knocked down. I think as a community we have been very fortunate to have achieved what we have in the Old School. I feel that the centre is in very good hands in the shape of the Management Committee who have some really good ideas in taking the centre forward. I have stayed long enough to see all the loans paid off, which has always been my personal aim. So it is with a little sadness I conclude this report and wish the Old School every success in their future. Thank you.