

Chairman's Report for the 56th Annual General Meeting of St Edwards PTA
Monday 9th November 2009

Welcome to the AGM where we will review and celebrate the PTA's achievements during the year September 2008 to July 2009. During the evening we will be holding elections for TWO new PTA members, so please consider how you wish to be involved.

Our constitution states that all parents, guardians and staff are members of the PTA. Ex-parents are also welcome to participate with events.

I am going to try and not overlap with comments made in the two reports issued but this will be tricky, as I also need to voice some thank yous.

The committee

The main committee meet seven times during the year to plan and co-ordinate the activities and to discuss the funding requests of from the school. These meetings are held in school and last approx 1 – 2 hours. Apart from me as an ex parent of a pupil the committee is made up from parents and staff members a total of seventeen members

The fete committee

Is chaired by Wendy Haxell, these meetings are very informal either held in school or at a parents home. The Committee is crucial to the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaars success. They meet approx 10 times a year and if you want to join Wendy and the team please speak to one of us after the meeting.

Accounts

As you can see we have increased our income from the previous year. This has only been possible due to the continued commitment of the PTA Committee and above all the support of you the parents. My thanks to Sally and Paul Clay for counting the pennies and to ex parent Alan Colton who for years has audited the accounts.

Events

As you will read in Sarah's report two events during the year had to be cancelled, this was very disappointing and worrying as we had already purchased numerous bottles of wine for the wine quiz. Thankfully all the wine was sold and a small profit made. I often hear rumours of discontent about the 'PTA asking for money again' but please remember that the funds raised are not for us. All the money raised is spent on the children to enhance their learning experience at the school. See our Treasures Report for details.

The Future

The committee are greatly encouraged by the new members who have joined this year; Kirsten Hutcheon has volunteered to be our new Treasurer and is currently shadowing Sally to learn the ropes. Lyn English is not new to the committee but this year offered to take on the Social Secretary role, my thanks to both of them. Lorna Flack had to resign her position as Vice Chairman due to work commitments. Lorna has worked with the PTA for a number of years and we hope she will continue to help at events. We pass on our thanks to her for all she has done. Wendy Haxell's

arm was twisted and she will now have the dual role of Fete Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The events and fund raising for the coming year will be similar to all previous years with some notable additions. We are planning a school cookbook – children are already sending in recipes for inclusion in this book which will be professionally prepared and bound.

The Christmas Bazaar is fast approaching and we are sure it will be well attended.

The Web Page

We have had the old web page completely revamped, our IT Queen Julie Clarke has worked wonders and the pages just keep getting better. We recently sent out promotional pens along with a web page awareness letter. We hope that in the future all our letters and flyers can be sent to parents by email, thereby saving paper and time. If you haven't registered please do as if insufficient parents register then we will have to continue with paper.

Thanks

This will only be a brief report as so much has already been said but I must pass on thanks to all the Committee, the Fete Committee, Mrs Allen, the school staff, Mr McCarthy and most of all the parents who give up their Fridays and Saturdays to help with the Summer Fairs and Christmas Bazaar. Special thanks to Sarah Cansell for keeping me in line, reminding me about meetings and keeping all of us focused. The committees deserve your support, they don't do it for the glory they do it so that the children of St Edwards can have the best start in life and experience many things which may not be otherwise available. So offer your help, time or donations you know it makes sense.

Some members retired or stood down in July 09, Sam Tunde's term was up, Lorna Flack as previously mentioned, Theresa Johnson's daughter reached the end of year six and therefore Theresa had to stand down from the main committee but we are sure she will return to run the kitchen at the key events. My thanks to them all.

I am conscious of the current financial climate and hope that you will be able to continue to support us. As you will see from our Secretary's and Treasurers Reports we have had some extremely successful events due to the hard work of the committee's and helpers. If you have any suggestions for events please let us know

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who runs a business, we may be able to mutually benefit each other in partnering on events or fundraising activities.

If you would like to be involved with PTA or just offer help, please contact me via the web site or PTA box in school.

Jim Craigmile
PTA Chairman