

# FRIENDS OF WEST PENNARD SCHOOL

Registered Charity No: 1108142

## January 2007 Newsletter

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- **Christmas Present:** Julia is re-launching the Present Room
- **Christmas Future:** Plan the next Christmas Fair chez Libby on Thursday 11 January
- **FWPS Past:** Have Roger, Linda and Sarah retired from active service?
- **FWPS Present:** A new Committee - which ones do you know?
- **FWPS Future:** Join us on Wednesday 17 January (not Tuesday) to plan a year of events
- **Helen's Playground Appeal:** For 3 to 4 parents to help transform the playground

### **Your efforts at Christmas helped raise £1411**

There were some big changes at 2 December's Christmas Fair: It was run by one of the dads - Roger Longman (Y3/Y1 parent), was on a Saturday, had a massive bouncy slide for the children to enjoy, and governor Richard Maher and his wife Sara (Y6/Y3 parent) kept everyone smiling with a chocolate fountain. Once again the festively attired Samantha Heath ( YR/Y3 parent) and Sarah Staniforth (Y3 parent) persuaded Santa to hand out early presents in the grotto, Rita Ayres (Y2 Classroom Assistant) ran an amazing raffle, there was mulled wine, great cakes and games, and the children were busy making sticky and glittery decorations in the Craft Room. A big thank you to them and to the many parents who organised areas, helped on the day or donated so generously to make the event a success.

### **Present Room 2007**

The Present Room will return to the Christmas Fair (hoorah!) For those of you who don't know, we fill a classroom with donated new or very nearly new gifts and allow children only into the room (on payment of a fee per present) to choose a gift for a special someone. We then wrap it and (if necessary) help the child to write the tag. Then you have a personally chosen, wrapped gift from your child.

To this end we are NOW COLLECTING your unwanted (and unused!) Christmas gifts - a box will be outside Reception Classroom for one week only!

For further details please ask Julia Hutchison (Y6/Y4 parent). Thank you.

### **Some early Christmas magic, please**

The phoenix rising out of its ashes and developing into something glorious will be familiar to Harry Potter fans. At 7.30 - 9.00 pm on Thursday 11 January Libby Syddall (Y2 parent) invites you to her home to rake over the ashes of previous Fairs and create a wonderful Christmas Fair 2007. To help magical ideas flow there will be low-fat cakes and cups of tea. Her 'phone number is 01458 850388.

### **AGM News**

There are a few new faces after November's AGM and this year's committee has a parent for

every year in the school so you will probably recognise a name or two. Please note that all the officers and ordinary committee members elected become FWPS Trustees.

Standing down from office were Roger Longman as Chairman, Sarah Longman as Treasurer and Linda Norris (Y6 parent) as Deputy Chairman; Linda and Sarah having both served the maximum sentence of three years in post. Roger has gone on to become a governor, Linda continues as 100 Club organiser until the end of this academic year and Sarah will take over the 100 Club in September. New President Helen Burchell (Y1 parent) and Adrian Smith (Y4/Y2 parent) stood down as an elected committee members. We thank them all for their hard work and support.

The new FWPS officers and committee are:

Chairman:	Libby Syddall (Y2 parent)	Deputy Chairman:	Julia Hutchison (Y6/Y4) parent
Treasurer:	Arabella Brown (Y4/YR parent)	Secretary:	Issa Bonnar (Y4/Y1 parent)
Committee:	Samantha Antell (Y4 parent)		Samantha Heath (Y3/YR parent)
	Sarah Hoggett (Y4/Y1 parent)		Sarah Longman (Y3/Y1 parent )
	Sara Maher (Y6/Y3 parent )		Andy Townend (Y5/Y3 parent )

Appointments:

Public Relations Co-ordinator:	Wendy Rowe (Y4 parent)	Prize Co-ordinator:	Wendy Christensen (Y3 parent )
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### **Fresh faces, fresh ideas for 2007**

Your FWPS committee will be meeting in the Staff Room at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17 January to plan this year's events. If you have any suggestions to put into the pot or views on how the FWPS could improve existing events, we would love to hear them so please come along or 'phone Issa on 01458 832147. Parents and carers of children at the school are always welcome to attend FWPS committee meetings and we hope you will take the opportunity to participate in at least one.

**AN APPEALING WORKING PARTY:** Head Teacher, Helen Burchell has launched an initiative to replace the big apparatus on the playing field during the spring. She needs 3 or 4 volunteers to be part of a working party. Liaising with the School Council and visiting other schools for inspiration, the working party will identify replacement apparatus suitable for all the pupils from Reception to Year 6, potential suppliers and recommend procurement of appropriate apparatus. It will also consider potential avenues of external funding. The working party will be asked to review the overall layout of the playground so that, if sufficient funding can be secured, the school's play areas can be re-equipped and re-styled to be a child's dream come true (and Helen's too).

**If you can help or know someone else who can (grandparents, god parents or family friends), please 'phone Helen at the school on 01458-832866 or drop her a line?**