

I would like to start by thanking all Parents' Association Volunteers for their hard work and commitment during the past year, whether it be by attending meetings (with the very busy lives we lead, a donation of your time is very much appreciated), or by taking a specific role within one of our fundraising events.

It's hard to believe that I only took the Chair a year ago. Linda had dedicated a lot of time and energy to the PA and when she passed the Chair to me, I must admit, it was a very scary moment!

My first task was to speak to the 'new parents', at the YR7 Informal Parents' Evening. I can remember that I had no time to prepare anything and Mr. Kellie kindly helped me out, by handing me his prepared speech on the work of the PA and thrusting me into the limelight! The parents seemed to enjoy his words and I was delighted to be approached, afterwards, by several Year 7 parents, who are now on our Committee and others who offered to help, as we needed it. I would like to thank Mr Kellie for encouraging me out of my 'comfort zone' to speak at that meeting. I would also like to thank Liz Young for organising the drinks and glasses, and the others who helped on the night.

In November, the PA suggested asking Parents to sponsor 'Sports Kits', via the Newsletter and everyone was delighted when 2 Sponsors came forward.

Our Christmas Fayre was a great success, with a substantial increase in funds raised to previous years. This was down to the hard work of the Parents' Association, the generosity of Parents & Friends, who donated goods, Jan Brown's assistance and the amazing Silent Auction, which was organised and run by Liz Young and raised £1,258. Well done, everyone.

The Christmas Raffle went well, raising over £2,000, with Julie Melvyn organising the tickets, Liz Young stuffing and addressing envelopes and Keith Tranter posting them. Excellent Teamwork and very much appreciated.

In the January PA Meeting, it was suggested and agreed that a Fundraising Sub-group should be created, to meet independently of the PA Committee and report back at meetings. This would enable the general meetings to be kept to a reasonable length of time.

In March we received a grant request, from the school, for £25,990 for CADCAM Equipment and the Committee agreed to raise money for this project. Liz Young had a brilliant idea – to use each letter of the word CADCAM to represent a Fundraising Event. After much brain storming, it was agreed these would be:-

- Car Boot Sale
- Autumn Ball
- Derby Night
- Catalogue Sales
- Advertising
- Making Donations

More details later in my report.

Meanwhile, David Fu of PC Clinic, Cheltenham (a Parent), kindly donated a computer and accessories, to be raffled to the boys and raise money for the Parents' Association. This was great fun and raised £303. Thanks to David Fu and all raffle ticket sellers.

Uniform Sales generated a substantial income to the PA Funds, with Penny Lancaster, once again, organising everything efficiently and effectively. Many thanks to Penny and her Team of helpers.

Sports day was another successful Fundraiser, with Sally Creese's husband supplying delicious sausages and burgers, which attracted very favourable (or should that be flavourable) comments. John Whitley cooked them to perfection, along with the onions, which had been prepared by Anita Grogan and Sally Creese, with Lindsay Evans organising the other foodstuffs and drinks. To all of you and the others who helped on the day... a big THANK YOU. Keith Tranter provided some valuable feedback after the event, which we have taken on board.... more helpers needed next time!

July brought our first CADCAM Event – the Car Boot Sale. 3900 Flyers were distributed locally, with Keith Tranter and Alyn George hand delivering the majority. The Event was planned for a leisurely 2pm, rather than the usual 6am 'race for a space' style event. It was unfortunate that the thunderstorm overhead brought it to a premature close, but I'm pleased to say that all 'booters' had paid for their pitches prior to the cloudburst! To everyone who helped on the day – a big THANK YOU.

Clipper Name Labels were offered to new Year 7 parents and £232 worth was sold, raising £39 for the PA.

In July, I spoke to the Parents of the new Year 7's, due to start in September 04, about the PA and the Autumn Ball. 11 new Parents expressed an interest in the PA and 3 donated Auction Prizes for the Ball.

The 100 Club has continued, thanks to Julie Power, with lucky numbers being drawn at the PA Meetings and Bob Burns, the School Bursar, has continued his excellent work with the Gifting Scheme. Thank you both.

Everyone has worked hard this year and for this I thank you. If I have not managed to mention you personally, please don't think I value your contribution any less than those named.

The Parents Association has approved Grants for many items this year, including Affiliation and Sports Fees, Minibus Expenses, a Zip Hydroboiler, ICT Network Upgrade, Hymn Books, Soccer Kits, Contribution to Telescope and 4 x 2 Decimal Place Balances and we should be proud of this achievement.

I am extremely honoured to be Chair of Sir Thomas Rich's School Parents' Association. In a year where there has been uncertainty about the future of Gloucester School, Tommies Parents have united through TAG – the [Tommies Action Group](#), with Julie Melvyn representing the PA at the TAG meetings and feeding back to the PA Committee. The Parents' Association agreed a Grant/Donation of £125 to help TAG's campaign, should it be needed.

Just as the Parents' Association supports the School, the School supports the Parents' Association, in many different ways. I can honestly say that each time I have been into school, to request something, I have received a great deal of help. I would particularly like to thank Julie Austin, who has been an absolute star this year. Nothing is too much trouble for her and she always greets my repeated question "How do I start the photocopier", with a smile, every single time I ask it, even if she's already heard it twice that day!

To Chris Carter, I would like to say 'Thank you' for your constant support for the PA, not only for attending every meeting we hold, but for being pleasant when I've had to call you on urgent issues, at home, in the evening.

And finally, to Mr Kellie – Thank you for your support, your commitment and for valuing the work we, as a Committee, do for the School. I believe that you are truly an exceptional Headmaster and that your Leadership has resulted in Tommies being, in my opinion, the best school in the County.

Thank you.

Sali Gray Chairman STRS PA AGM Oct 04