**BSPTA Chair’s Report November 2017**

Welcome to all

Thank you for coming tonight, it was good to see some familiar and new faces. And for the new faces amongst us this is my story behind why I became chair of the BSPTA. I have two boys aged 19 and 16 and spent 7 years on their primary school PFA committee climbing the ranks to chair and another 3 years before that, on a Playgroup committee. So, after 10 years very engaged in the organising of fundraising events I decided to step down and let someone else have a go. It was exhausting.

My eldest son attended Woodroffe school and with work commitments with my business I found I had very little time to help out, but when my second son George decided he would rather go to Beaminster school, a school that I attended many years ago, my interest in helping out started to flicker. Unfortunately work commitments dampened my interest again but after a plea for help to organise the Christmas Fair 2 years ago I decided to volunteer, and I’ve now found myself back in the middle of a brilliant committee, even though I no longer have children at school!

This new academic year we have lost a few stalwart members of our team, Sam, Helen and Hen have stepped down as their children have gone on to pastures new. Having run the committee for over 5 years, their knowledge was unending, so still finding my feet, I’m determined to continue to move forward and continue their ‘legacy’. Kirsty has stepped into Hen’s shoes and is undoubtedly doing all the necessary work to pull this team together, and not to forget Billy who up to this point in time has kept the accounts in order. But we have others on this committee who also do lots of good work, volunteering and stepping up when asked. Anna always ready to put her hand up, Laura again volunteering, Andrea with her good ideas and all the other of you who are too many to name, always ready to pounce when asked.

Last year we managed to raise funds by providing tea, coffee (biscuits and cake!!) at parent evenings and academic monitoring day, the bar at the summer concert, hosting the Christmas fair in the Public Hall, and all the other events I’ve forgotten about!

Then we managed to spend the funds on tennis coaching, two honours boards, help costs towards the India trip, Ecuador trip and this year the Barbados netball trip.

Being part of this amazing team with its wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm has boosted my confidence to help run this fab group, but as I said last year it’s not me who runs this group, it’s all of you, and with everyone’s help we can continue to support Beaminster School.

Thanks goes to all our members, from the senior management who support us, Mr Hales, Mr Withers, Nicola Chalkley who comes up trumps every time we ask anything of her and Kellie Poole for her help with the finances. Thanks goes to you all for stepping up when asked. Thank you for your commitment to the cause, for doing such an important role in supporting all of us to provide the much-needed extras for our children.

Thanks, everyone.

Heather Upham