



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011

TRUSTEES

My thanks to all the Trustees who have worked so hard this year and achieved so much.

I felt that it was not appropriate, from a governance point of view, to be both Chair of the Governors and Chair of the Trustees and have therefore stood down as Chair of the Trust. I am pleased to Report to you that Neil Patterson has agreed to take on the Chairmanship of the Trust.

Sadly Lambert Courth steps down tonight after three years in which we have benefited from both his strategic business acumen and his incredible organisation abilities.

Congratulations to Mike Bowden for the award of an MBE. His investiture will take place in December in front of school pupils at his request.

ACCOUNTS

John Gaca, the new Treasurer, has masterminded the setting up of the new Paxton Charity Accounts package which will make the Trusts Accounting systems more robust especially as the Trust enters another major Fund Raising cycle. Our thanks to Lyn Halkes who has kindly scrutinised our books and made helpful suggestions on improvements that can be made to our systems. Lyn was formally appointed as Auditor in January 2011 in order to fulfil the requirements of the Charity Commission.

STRATEGY OVER THE LAST YEAR

The Charity celebrated its 10th birthday this year.

The Arts Centre Project was formally closed in January 2010 all promised funds having been raised and handed over to the school.

During the year preliminary work has been done examining the feasibility for the next project to be supported by the Trust. It was agreed that, as a first step within a broader Vocational Training Project, the focus should be on the creation of an Eco Learning Centre providing vocational training in outdoor activities. This builds on the work already done with horticulture at the school and utilises the rich woodland on the campus. It is anticipated that the derelict kennels site will be utilised for an environmentally sustainable new building to support these activities. There is strong support in the school and the wider community for the project and it was felt that the next stage was to appoint a Project Director, jointly funded by the Trust and the School and this has resulted in the appointment of Belinda Manning. Belinda has for the last 3 years been the Business Development Manager/Project Manager/Education and Safety Manager at the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Prior to this she worked for the National Autistic Society as centre manager. She originally trained as a Primary School Teacher.

During the year a new website was launched giving a new, fresh and modern brand image to the charity focusing on the children and including some wonderful photographs, taken at school, by Deborah Husk.

STRATEGY OVER NEXT YEAR

In line with the Trust's strategy of supporting and enabling major projects and focussing on one at a time, the next year will focus on working with the Eco Learning Centre Project Director to define the needs for the project, replacement of the derelict kennels with a new and exciting sustainable building, cost the project and start raising the necessary funds. The Charity has committed to funding half of the Project Director's salary.

FUTURE PLANS

The future plans will depend on the outcome of Eco Learning Project Director's strategy and plans over the next year. We believe that this new and exciting project will require several years of fundraising in order to achieve the level of funds required.

SUPPORT

The Charity is extremely grateful to the stalwart band of supporters who have made so much possible over my time as Chairman. The support received from Patrons, the Trustees, the School, the Friends of the School, all those that provide their support through helping at events and attending events is hugely appreciated and has achieved so much in the last ten years of the Charity's existence – thank-you.

Jonny Grew

Outgoing Chairman