

## **2010 Chairperson's Annual Report (Elaine Tones)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families and staff from St Benet's school for their continued support, but a special thanks to all members of the Friends of St Benet's (FOSB) especially Joanne who has taken on jobs from each roll throughout the year.

This has been an outstanding year for the FOSB not only with the amount of money raised but also in the support from Parents, the FOSB should stand proud for all the work they have done and the community spirit they have helped to create, we have purchased many things for our school to help improve our children's education but again we have excelled, and we now have a fantastic library in memory of Caroline Theobald this is a wonderful place for our children to learn but it is also a place that can be used for many other reasons i.e. mass, meetings staff training etc. I feel it has made an outstanding improvement to our school.

As you are all aware I resigned in June 2008 and I agreed to come back to help raise enough money for our library, we now have the library in place and we have also raised money to purchase books for this. I now have no children in this school and I am willing to step back and give space for new parents and new ideas.

My time as chair has been a wonderful time and I have gained so much pleasure knowing we have made a difference I am sure other parents would also gain great pleasure from this experience.

Once again a huge thank you for all your help and support through out the year and long may it continue.

## **2010 Secretary's Annual Report (Louise Coulson)**

This has been another wonderful year for the FOSB and everyone involved, in any way, can be justly proud of themselves.

Once again, the Summer Fayre was a huge success and despite the weather the profit was remarkable. What a fantastic achievement! The Fayre was the 'final push' for funds towards Caroline's Library and everyone pulled out the stops and worked hard. As ever, the Fayre attracted a huge amount of locals, not just people linked to the school, proof if it were needed that St Benet's is at the centre of a thriving community. Well done everyone; the Fayre really was a success on every level.

The Summer BBQ in July has become another 'must do' event and is a wonderful way for the school community to come together to relax and have fun after all the year's hard work.

Once again, in December all St Benet's school children from Reception upwards enjoyed a wonderful day out at the theatre. Thanks must go to Joanne Wollaston for organising this now annual event. It really was an exciting treat for the children plus it is a tangible example to parents that the FOSB really does directly improve the school life of their children.

Also in December, the FOSB held its first Annual Ball ... a real posh frock event! It was an excellent opportunity to get dolled up, let your hair down, have fun AND raise money! What a great idea!

Perhaps though the most important event of the year was the opening of Caroline's library on 11<sup>th</sup> November by Bishop Cunningham. I think I speak for everyone when I say it was possibly the most emotional school day ever. The library is a testament to a school community's determination, dedication and hard work and is a fitting 'living' memorial to a beautiful, much loved girl and her amazing family. The library is already a much used place of calm and peace and is an asset to the school.

I would like to give a big vote of thanks to Elaine Tones who has been a wonderfully committed Chair again this year and to Joanne Anderson who, as Treasurer, has done a great job of securing grants, maintaining the accounts and generally keeping us all up to date with what's happening! I would also like to thank Amanda Vaughan who has secured raffle prizes the likes of which we have never seen before! Amazing! Thanks also to all the other Trustees and volunteers (including Marie Lamb, Alasdair Bailey, Graeme Page and Steve Anderson) for coming to meetings, helping at events, shopping, taking minutes etc, etc, the list is endless! In addition, I would like to thank Damian Groak and Joan Clemo for their help and support and, last but not least, very special thanks to Carol Readman for her valuable help and assistance.

Well done everyone. Here's to another successful year!