



2.11.23

BWSPA Chairman's Report 2022/2023

The Bishop Wordsworth's School Parents' Association ('BWSPA' - charity no. 1081166) exists to help raise funds for non-budgeted items that will benefit the lives of the BWS students at school, whilst providing a social framework for the parent body. We work closely with the school body to achieve this objective. All school parents are automatically 'members' of the BWSPA and any involvement in activities or fund raising is done on a voluntary basis. No membership fees are paid.

It has been a genuine pleasure and privilege to Chair the BWSPA for the period 2022-2023 and I will remember this time fondly. Due to other responsibilities that I have toward a charity in my work industry, and as I agreed when taking on this role, I am sorry not to be able to chair the committee for a second year. Being involved with the BWPSA has been a very satisfying and enriching time and I have thoroughly enjoyed the chance of developing relationships with both the school and parent body during my tenure as Chair (and previously whilst involved as a committee member). I am very pleased that thanks to the dedication of the BWSPA committee members and other volunteers we have made a positive difference to several aspects of the students' lives at BWS this past year.

Thank you.

The BWSPA can only really succeed in its ambitions with the able assistance of the BWS team, and the generous contributions from the school parents and wider community of course.

Thank you to the Headmaster Dr. Stuart Smallwood and Bursar Barry Smith for their regular attendance at our meetings and openly sharing plans and news of activities and any funding requirements within the school. A special thank you must go to Nikki Miles who has continued to work tirelessly in the background communicating our plans and reports to the parents via email. Thank you also to the numerous BWS teachers who have involved the BWSPA in either their school year parent's evenings or other events this year allowing the BWSPA to share our story, including a special mention for Richard Demain-Griffiths (Sports Dept.) and Caroline Popham (Alumni) for enabling the 'Richard Hill rugby dinner' and 'Big Bish Bash' cricket festival in partnership with BWS this year. Ensuring the BWSPA continues to receive publicity and opportunities to promote itself and fundraise at 'school events' is critical to its long-term success and these symbiotic partnerships are vital and should rightfully be encouraged and celebrated by all involved. Finally, thank you to Terry Harkness and the catering team as well as the estate team for supporting our events.

Whilst not all the positions on the committee were filled coming into this year, the BWPSA Committee members all deserve individual thanks for their dedication, hard work, unending positivity, and generous contributions in making the BWSPA a success.

Rob Jones: despite stepping down from Chair to (temporary) Secretary this year, has continued to work tirelessly across most aspects of the BWSPA and always with the greatest enthusiasm and motivation. The BWSPA owes him a great deal for the considerable time and effort he has put in over the past few years.

Sarah Robertson as Treasurer has managed the BWSPA finances with great professionalism and enthusiasm towards the BWSPA and ensured a positive relationship with the Bursar and BWS finance department. She has been ably assisted, when necessary, by the dedicated Assistant Treasurer Zainab Dangana. Zainab's 'match' fund-raising from her employers has been a valuable addition to the BWSPA funds yet again this year.

Onur Gunce has managed the 1000 club and monthly draw with dedication and professionalism, despite the occasional frustration of our historic database not always having contact details for him to advise the winners! His wife Gulin Gunce has been a valuable and always very cheerful volunteer at numerous events.

Emma Jones and her team of volunteers have managed to make the 'new' uniform shop the greatest fund-raising contributor to the BWSPA funds this year (approx. £6k) so a very special thanks to them all, and long may it continue!

Thank you to the numerous former committee members for their ongoing support; especially Kate Doyle who has very kindly continued to help at numerous events during the year and Kirsten Webster who very kindly continued to keep the website running behind the scenes. Thank you to all the other volunteers who have helped us at the various events across the year. The BWSPA relies on you all.

Thank you to Nicolette Beardsmore for her continued enthusiasm and total dedication to the BWSPA, managing the quiz night, the outdoor summer theatre and the Christmas Fair (in association with SWGS). Her long-standing involvement with the BWSPA will be sorely missed when she steps away, and I hope successors to her roles will be appointed as necessary asap as these are key events in the BWSPA calendar.

Finally, and most importantly perhaps thank you to everyone who has attended our events and/or so generously contributed towards our fund raising this year.

Events 2023/23

As well as supporting bars at numerous school evenings and managing the uniform shop, the BWSPA successfully staged the following fund-raising events this past year:

- Wine & Champagne Tasting evening
- Christmas Fair (with SWGS)
- Richard Hill evening (with BWS Sports & Alumni Dept.)
- Quiz Night
- Uniform Sales (calendar of events)
- Rain or Shine Theatre production
- 'Big Bish Bash' Cricket Festival (with BWS Sports Dept.)
- Y7/Y12 Parents Evenings (Bars)
- Amazon Smile (now obsolete) / easyfundraising
- Smartie Tubes (coin collection for new Y7 intake)

Whilst we have another calendar of events planned for 2023/24 if any parent has any fund-raising event or ideas to develop that they would like to organise via the BWSPA please get in touch info@bwspa.org.uk

Fund Raising Benefits

With the UK experiencing a 'cost of living crisis', the past year has not been an easy time for fund raising so I am very pleased to report we made donations to the school totalling approximately £15,000 during the last 12 months to obtain the following items to benefit the students:

- DT Department Milling Machine
- Contribution to the 'Pitch In' Campaign for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- External Seating Benches
- Book Fund – increased access to Literature Reading Material for students
- Music Department IT projects
- BWS branded flags for use at school events

Fund Raising in 2024

Looking ahead, we have received key fund-raising requests from the school to provide for key projects;

- Equipment for the soon to be refurbished Bishopgate
- A new school Minibus
- Completion of the 'MUGA' campaign

Parents are always encouraged to help raise funds for the BWSPA at no cost to themselves through 'easyfundraising' or if possible, via 'match' funding through their employer. ('Amazon Smile' no longer enables specific charity fund raising). Additionally, for a monthly ticket fee our very own '1000 Club' monthly draw continues to raise funds, but parent participation remains limited, but this should remain a key area to promote engagement. These mechanics can all make a huge difference so I urge parents to consider these simple fund-raising opportunities as there are some big fund raising targets to hit this coming year and once completed, these projects will all benefit the school tremendously. Income is of course derived from any ticket fees and at the bars we manage when attending our events too, so we welcome more parents at all our events this year - please get involved and help benefit the students.

[How to Support your child & the school | Bwspa](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bwspa/)
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bwspa/>
<https://www.bwspa.org.uk/1000-club>

Committee Members, Volunteers and Meetings

Meetings have taken place in each half of each term this year and have been mainly attended by the committee with some parents occasionally dialling in remotely (when IT allows!). All parents are welcome to attend any meeting and as it provides a deeper understanding of what is going on in the school it is encouraged. There are several committee vacancies to be filled this year as current committee members will be standing down from their roles. Being a committee member may seem a daunting prospect to some, but it is hugely gratifying, and not as much of a burden to your time as may be preconceived! Getting involved in the BWSPA is a great way to socialise with other school

parents, get to know the teachers better and understand more about the school, so we actively encourage parents to please step forward to help - as without you we won't exist. For 2024 we urgently require parents to fill these committee roles please:

Chair

To oversee the BWSPA activities and committee, liaise with the BWS body and be the key BWSPA contact for school parents and the wider community. Required to be the spokesperson for the BWSPA at BWS events as necessary, but this can be delegated as necessary.

Vice Chair

To shadow the new Chair and possibly host the occasional meeting, with a view to move into the Chair's role in future.

Secretary

To take minutes at the meetings, be a liaison with the headmaster's secretary and ensure meeting communications are sent to the committee and posted via the school website.

Asst. Secretary (includes being website manager and social media 'guru')

This is arguably the most exciting role! We really need someone who has the experience of managing web pages and back-end function and would work closely with the Treasurer and Chair. Currently the BWSPA.org.uk website is based on a WIX platform. This role is a great opportunity for someone with their own creative vision as the website would now benefit from a modernisation. Would suit someone active on social media as the management of (committee agreed) social media posts are also required.

The Future

Forging even closer links across the school, the alumni and engaging the parents remains key to the successful fund raising the BWSPA can achieve, and I very much look forward to seeing the BWSPA develop in future and wish everyone involved in the BWSPA continued success in the coming years.

Thank you all very much for all your support this past year.

Charles Taverner, parent of boys in Y11 & Y13

(outgoing) Chair BWSPA