

The Chairman writes

This term saw one of the BRAVE Trust pioneers, The Revd. Norman Richards, step down as trustee and management committee member. On behalf of everyone in the BRAVE trust, and of all its supporters, I should like to express great thanks and gratitude to Norman for his enormous contribution to the founding and subsequent growth of the Trust. I thought it would be right for Norman to occupy this column with his valedictory thoughts. So on a June evening in a suitable venue close to his home, Norman reflected on the past eight years and the realisation of a dream-come-true.

Norman's Notes

"The Trust came out of several coffee-time conversations with local clergy colleagues, including Les Harman and Carol Kimberley, but also other local individuals who shared the same ideal of reaching out to the young people of North East Hertfordshire. I leave the trust with excitement and a certain amount of disbelief. Not in God of course, but in being able to make the connection with the vision, practically finding the right people to fill the roles and raising the finances to kick start the project. But it all came together. A God-incidence indeed!"

"Whilst the Trust could not function without my friends on the management committee, I want to pay particular tribute to all three school workers who are or have been at the sharp end. The pioneering work of Ann Bullen and more recently, the energy and enthusiasm of Margaret and the extra dimensions Martha brings to the team. I'm thrilled we have more work in the middle schools than we can manage".

"The Trust still has some challenges to overcome, Funding for a third schools worker, recruiting volunteers and reaching out to younger supporters. I also long for the time when we can have open access to the upper schools in the two towns".

"I'd like to address Christians of all denominations when I say the BRAVE Trust is indicative of many places where "church" is going into schools. It's not about why our young people are not coming to our churches and filling our pews, but a new ministry. We need to stop our pre-occupation with our ancient buildings'. Churches need to be "out there".

At the last BRAVE management committee meeting before the schools closed for the summer, on behalf of the Trust,

Richard Genochio presented Norman with a bottle, of Scottish origin, and a signed card, as a small thank you.

Margaret writes: The summer term has been full of excitement, anticipating change, and yet also sad for some of the students. It is probably hard for us to remember some of the pressures that are part of the school structure, particularly when it comes to exams. The students asked us to pray for them during this stressful time.

We do care for individuals in a group yet time and registration at the lunch time can often prevent the child from expressing how they are feeling as they have to rush to their classroom. Please pray that we will have wisdom to see the student's needs and can share with the staff if we feel worried in any way. It is good when teachers and children can share concerns with us so that we can care and pray for the whole family

Before the end of term we invited the Year 8 students for a lunch time drinks and snacks session so we could explain about the CORE group at Greneway starting again in September. This is of course for the students who are going to Meridian.

Roysia school group Buds is going well with an increasing number of students attending this group. Some significant discussions and questions arise from these sessions. We have attended planning meetings at Edwinstree for the celebrations that will take place at St Albans Abbey on 18th October. The pupils that we work with at Edwinstree are very excited to be participating in the day's program of performances. Out of our brainstorming sessions came some good ideas and from that the pupils have now put together new material that is thought provoking and inspirational. The new stained glass window for the school is in process and will be unveiled on the day. I will be involving years 5 and 6 in a dance with the theme of JESUS the LIGHT of the WORLD that will be performed in the Abbey. Martha's sketch drama is being performed in the school on the return, with the steel band also playing a part in the celebrations.

We have so many ideas and we will be spending time in the holidays to think and pray about the ways forward for all the schools. It will be great to have a time of refreshment and time with our families. Please pray for strength and power in the Lord for us to soar on wings like eagles!

Martha writes:

The second half of the summer term proved to be busy, involving meetings with staff and also some new challenges

linking the Olympic Values to our usual work. Margaret and I had a good first meeting with the new Head, Laura Flitton. Laura has been at Greneway for ten years and is certainly very supportive of all that we have done and plan to do in the new school year. We were made to feel completely at ease.

It seems that now Greneway, Meridian and Roysia have Academy status they will be sharing their teaching staff. Apparently the year 8 at Greneway will be taught regularly by Meridian R.E. tutors. This still leaves the other years and I'm sure our willingness to take on a series of teaching sessions will be taken up. Laura was interested particularly in Easter lessons and was also very excited about the Christmas card project, including getting involved this year. I am waiting for some feedback on the charities they are going to support.

Margaret and I were in the school recently for a two hour fun day within the theme of Jubilee and Olympic celebrations. We managed to engage the whole school continually for two hours. We divided the school into two groups which Margaret and I headed up in separate areas. We then swapped groups so that everyone could experience the full program of activities. We covered aspects of preparation, training and self esteem that are part of life's rich pattern. We ran indoor fun mini Olympic Games, making Olympic torches and then sticking their own goals and ambitions for life in the flames of the torch. Discussions, games and DVD clips were all part of the event. We were both thanked by the Headteacher for our part in the event. I was also thanked by the head of R.E and the head of Art most profusely and complimented also by the head of Year 5 on quality of resources. The children were curious and the activities provoked questions even after we had finished. One year 7 girl in particular had lots of questions about talking to and hearing from God, about how women were perceived by God and about the bible. She also had further questions about one of the women in the bible, who unfortunately isn't in the New Testament version of her bible at home. I was both challenged and pleasantly surprised by the pupils' level of attentiveness and response to questions.

Since my last report I've managed to find time to attend some training held in Clare Priory Suffolk. Entitled "The Little Way of Healing Ministries". A massive understatement. It was definitely one of the best courses I have ever attended in my life. Not only was it of benefit personally but I feel it has definitely helped me in my approach towards others. It has at the very least made me grow more in my spiritual awareness.

I took Margaret and another person along to visit the priory and introduce them to the founders, Father Laurence Brassill OSA an Augustinian Monk and Mrs Pauline Edwards. The environment is very peaceful with parts of the building still intact from the 13th Century. Set in private

grounds it is has a well established community, but also functions as a retreat centre. I definitely think it was a wise investment of my time and am thankful to The Brave Trust in supporting my attendance.

BRAVE Trust Olympic Competition



At the time of writing the country is getting behind our sports men and women during the London Olympics.

Many Olympians have declared a Christian faith over the years but perhaps the most famous was Eric Liddell, international athlete, international rugby player and Christian missionary. The subject of the film "Chariots of Fire" who famously refused to run at the Olympics on a Sunday, instead going to preach at a local Presbyterian church.

To celebrate the 30th Olympiad the BRAVE Trust is offering you the chance to win an environment-friendly wind up torch, for being a bright spark! All you have to do is find words of **three** letters or more using the letters from the name "**ERIC LIDDELL**". You may only use each letter once, unless there are more than one in the name e.g. L or D. Your words should be contained in the Oxford English Dictionary.

50 words – Bronze medal

100 words – Silver medal

120 words or more – Gold medal

Send your list of words via email (simonQrice@gmail.com) to the newsletter editor Simon Rice, by Monday 3rd September. A winner will be announced shortly afterwards. Have fun!

BRAVE Trust coffee & more in Therfield

Ann and Richard Genochio are hosting a Coffee Morning for the BRAVE Trust at 11 a.m. on Thursday 8th. November, at the Old Post House in Therfield. The house is to the right of the Fox and Duck on the village green. There will be a cake stall and other attractions and, of course, coffee. Anyone who would like to come to this remote hilltop settlement will be very welcome.

Supporting the BRAVE Trust's work

Legacy:
Could you leave a legacy for the BRAVE Trust in your will?
Please contact our Treasurer Mike Maze for further details.

Donations
Planned giving helps us know what money we have to spend in advance and so offers us the greatest benefit. However we are equally happy to receive a one-off payment.
How about organising a coffee morning or other local event in aid of the BRAVE Trust?

Online shopping:
If you shop online you can raise funds **without any additional cost to yourself.** If you or your family shop at Amazon, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Curry's, iTunes or countless other shops online we are missing out on extra cash for the BRAVE Trust.
Not sure how to set it up? Contact Simon (simonqrice@gmail.com), our webmaster, who will help you directly to set it up on your PC.

Corporate Charitable Giving:
Many corporate organisations will match a payment from its employees or donate to causes employees are involved.
Does your employer operate a scheme that could help the BRAVE Trust?

My Response

✂.....✂.....

*I would like to make a one-off donation of £.....

*I would like to make a regular monthly donation of £.....(*delete as appropriate)

I am a UK tax payer and all donations I make from this date until I notify you otherwise should be treated as Gift Aid donations

Signed.....Name.....

Dated:.....Address.....

Please send your donation to Mr. Mike Maze, BRAVE Trust Treasurer, 16, Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ (Mikefmaze@aol.com)