



Dear Parents and Friends,

# VOLUNTEER SPECIAL

How better to mark my 200<sup>th</sup> newsletter here than with a celebration of our wonderful volunteers, who add so much to your children's development. Whether in a very public way, or behind the scenes, all that they do enriches our community. We are very grateful for their *generosity*. We couldn't pay tribute to them all (we have 74 DBS-cleared volunteers on our register!) but I hope their answers to the same 5 questions gives you some insight into the work they do.

## 'Grandma' Lil

*Please describe what you do.*

I listen to children read and make sure they are enjoying the reading. I encourage them to read at home.

*For how long have you done this?*

About 13 years.

*Why do you support us in this way?*

To help children understand what they are reading, and to know how important it is. And to help them enjoy what they are doing.

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

It's all special, but I enjoy watching the children grow up.

*Would you recommend this role to others? If so, why?*

Yes I would. You take an interest in children's lives and see how their minds work and it is really enjoyable. I highly recommend people to do it, especially for 13 years! The children have been very happy.

## Rachel Stewart

*Please describe what you do.*

I'm a member of FONNS. I was the chair for a year and for the past few years I've run the FONNS element of the Nibley Festival with Kate Rea.



*For how long have you done this?*

Since Arthur started school, so 2011. I thought it would help me integrate into the school and meet new families.

*Why do you support us in this way?* I think initially it was for social reasons, but since being involved I have come to realise how important the fundraising element is to school, to give our kids a fun, exciting time at Primary School. The stuff that makes Nibley that extra bit special.

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

Yes, I project-managed the 'Spiritual garden' development. The amazing generosity of parents, companies and time then culminated in the opening to beautiful sunshine and an amazing reaction from the kids. It made the 3 days painting pencils under a tent in horrendous rain worthwhile.

*Would you recommend this role to others? If so, why?*

Definitely. It's the same every year. People say that they can't commit, or they have nothing to offer. We all feel that way, but for those few hours a school year the benefits your kids have is vital. And we are always determined to have fun and a laugh along the way. Come along, you'll be welcomed with a nice cup of tea (the budget doesn't stretch to booze, LOL!

## Nicola Dickson

*Please describe what you do.*

I support P.E. activities for juniors.



*For how long have you done this?*

Nine years this coming November.

*Why do you support us in this way?*

I believe that sport should be accessible for everyone.

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

Sports Days, and times when we have won special events.

*Would you recommend this role to others?*

Absolutely!

## **Peter Hall**

*Please describe what you do.*

I am the Ex Officio Governor. As part of its Anglican Foundation, the deed creating the school says that the vicar of North Nibley shall be, ex officio, a governor of the school. There is no longer a vicar living in North Nibley, so I volunteered. I knew I didn't have the full credentials, but I wanted to do what I could. The Archdeacon of Gloucester was very pleased to accept my offer.

As well as attending governors meetings to discuss and agree the school's priorities and policies across the board, I, like all governors, come into school from time to time, to talk to the children about their lessons, for example. Also, because I am part of the Anglican Foundation of the school, I also come in to hear what the children think about the school's worship services, or to hear what they know or think about the teachings of Jesus. I've been an engineer all my life, so I've taken a special interest in maths, and in analysing the school's overall results. I also support the school's Safeguarding responsibilities.

*For how long have you done this?*

Since 2003, I'm in my 15th year. That is an unusually long time to serve as a governor!

*Why do you support us in this way?*

In 2003, the vicar of Wotton, North Nibley, Alderley and Tresham, John May, was finding his many duties and cares enormously demanding on his time. Something had to go. I felt that supporting the school where two of my daughters had attended, where I had chaired the PTA and where my wife, Barbara had chaired the governors was a worthwhile thing to do, and would ease John's load. And, as churchwarden, I wanted to contribute to the link between the church and the school.

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

Taking the leavers, on their last day at North Nibley school, up on to the church tower is a memorable experience. When we needed a new oak door for the top of the tower, the joiner said, "I haven't been up here since my last day at North Nibley school." It was memorable for him too. But we don't do it anymore because the risk assessment pointed out that the parapet is very low, the floor can be slippery and it's a very long way down.

I remember too, the out-of-school visits, for example to the wartime experience at Swindon, sitting in total darkness in an air-raid shelter with the noise of bombing. The leader said, "What shall we do now?" A small voice in the darkness said, "Pray," so we did.

More recently, Open the Book was attended by the Bishop of Gloucester, the first female diocesan Bishop the Church of England has ever had. Peter Marsh reminded the children that Rachel Treweek was living proof that, just

because something has never been done before doesn't mean that you can't do it. You can!

*Would you recommend this role to others?*

I would recommend being a governor at North Nibley School. The Head Teacher needs an independent sounding board, to discuss, challenge or support his ideas. The fourteen governors need a range of skill and experience to help the Head and staff make the school the best it can be. Playing even a very small part in that job is a satisfying pleasure and a privilege.

## **Rev'd Peter Marsh**

*Please describe what you do.*

I deliver a weekly act of worship at the Friday assembly, to the whole school and parents, relatives and carers. The worship is based on Christianity and follows the 'Open The Book' project. Each week pupils help me by acting, narrating and singing.

*For how long have you done this?*

Getting on for 10 years, on and off, but certainly it's been regular for the past 3 years.

*Why do you support us in this way?*

Because in a Church of England school it is right that children are introduced to the meaning and value to everyday life that Christianity can bring. The school works very hard to establish and maintain these values in school life and I am here to support them. As a priest it is my duty and my joy to share the very relevant message of the Bible with the children in a fun, happy way that gets them thinking and asking those difficult questions!

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

I have many stand-out memories. Here are 3 typical ones: 1) Waiting for assembly to start I was strumming out the cords to 'Sing, Hosanna' on my guitar when suddenly the entire school, unprompted, joined in singing their hearts out. 2) After the crucifixion story, which was a hard one to do, I left a large crucifix at school to allow the children to have a closer look. The following week a pupil was looking at it and said "Did they really do that to him? It must have been awful." 3) I asked children to make a sound like an angel. Some hummed, others 'ahhhhed' and the result was truly an angelic sound, such as I will never forget.

*Would you recommend this role to others? If so, why?*

I would recommend this role to anyone who wants to uphold Christian values and experience enthusiasm and wonder through children's eyes.

## Joe Trotman

*Please describe what you do.*

I give piano and electronic keyboard lessons to a small number of pupils. This is voluntary and free of charge.

*For how long have you done this?*

I agreed to start this in May 1993, just over 24 years!

*Why do you support us in this way?*

Former Head Teacher Mr K. Buxton wanted someone to help with music in the school. After an interview with him

he said "O.K." At this time I was also doing the school crossing patrol.

*Have you any special 'stand out' memories of your time with us?*

At times I am pleased to sign for some of the school pupils to receive their cubs/brownies music badges. I was the one who started the children playing "Happy Birthday" on the piano in Friday assembly. Also, in 2015, my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday was recognised in the school assembly.

*Would you recommend this role to others?*

Yes. I would like to think that someone else would carry on when I can no longer do it.



On Tuesday the current Year 6 attended the annual 'Cathedral Leavers' Service, where several hundred Year 6 children from C of E Primary Schools gathered to begin their 'transition' from Primary to Secondary school. It was good to see Mo again, from iSingPop, the worship group with whom we worked back in 2013. The theme of the service was 'Hold Fast' to your values.

In our own assemblies this term we are twin-tracking two values, thankfulness and generosity. God's generosity is best described as 'grace', love given freely without limit or conditions. This generosity, once experienced and acknowledged by an individual can in turn release a generous spirit towards others. We will be helping our children to understand the concept of giving without seeking any reward and exploring how they can act with generosity not only with material objects but also with their time, words and actions. Do pupils truly understand the concept of giving without seeking any reward? How are pupils encouraged to act with generosity in both their

words and their actions? Which areas of the curriculum enable the children to consider the importance of being generous not only with material objects but also with time, spirit and talents?

## Music

Recorders – An opportunity has arisen for children to start recorder lessons in the Autumn Terms. Please ask at the office for further details.

**Diary Dates** Our online diary can be found at [http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page\\_id=267](http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page_id=267)

Tuesday 13th	Nature Quiz – County Semi-finals, Elmore Hall, GL2 3NT, 4:30 p.m. Supporters welcome.		
Weds 14 <sup>th</sup>	'Competitive' Sports Day, with guests (next year's Reception). Afternoon – 1.15 start. Meeting for Parents of current Reception Children, 6:30 in the school hall.		
Friday 16th	Quad-Kids – County Finals ! Nibley Nibbles Café here from 2:00pm. OPEN AFTERNOON – EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE PARENTS from 1:00 – 2:30 (and on to assembly?)		
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Visit of the Bishop's Visitor, District Sports Field Events, here at 4:00pm. Please support.		
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup>	Current Reception Parents – 'interview' slot during the afternoon. 3:15 Sex & Relationships Education – an information session for parents of Year 5 & 6 District Sports Track Events, KLB, from 6:30pm. Please support.		
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Assessment – an information session for parents, here in the hall, 6:30pm		
Friday 23rd	Nibley Nibbles Café here from 2:00pm.		
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Play Leader's Sports Day – all invited.		
Thursday 20th	Last day of term. Year 6 Leaver's Service 9:30 in St. Martin's Church (over the road). All invited.		
SUMMER – Pupil days	AUTUMN 2017 – Pupil days	SPRING 2018 – Pupil days	NEXT SUMMER – Pupil days
Term 5 24/04/17 - 26/05/17	Term 1 05/09/2017 – 20/10/2017	Term 3 04/01/2018 – 9/02/2018	Term 5 16/04/2018 – 25/05/2018
Term 6 05/06/17 - 20/07/17	Term 2 31/10/2017 – 15/12/2017	Term 4 19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018	Term 6 4/06/18 – 24/07/2018

Ruby has written the diary entry of a passenger on the Titanic. The passenger actually existed. What was her fate - to sink or survive?

Fast asleep, snoring extremely loudly, I was startled by a loud bang. What is that sound? Where is it coming from? Scrambling out of bed, I sprinted towards my mother. She grasped my hand and pulled me out of the cabin where we were met by other people, surrounding our corridor. Confused, I cuddled up to my mother, wondering what was going on. As my mother led me back to bed, I yawned when suddenly thunders of shouting came from the deck. My mother reassured me that everything was going to be fine. The Titanic was known to be 'unsinkable'. Then she led me towards the deck.

The ice-scraping across the borders of the ship - throwing sheer pieces of the iceberg towards us, led us towards great shock. I started pacing back, starting at the gargantuan iceberg. Why was it happening? Tons of questions were running around my head, leaving me towards great consternation. I was in my own world, when I stepped forward onto a shard of glass, which sliced through the skin of my foot. It was in agony.

A crowd of people shored me out the way, realising what the situation was. Yelling across the deck as well as some crying coming from the younger passengers. My mother picked me up, squeezing as tight as possible, whilst singing lullabies in my ears. My siblings joined in singing to try and calm their self down, but all the noise surrounding us was making the situation worse. Nobbles in people's voices started to slur. Why was it so noisy?

Standing up high, on the top of the deck, where I have a view of the lifeboats being lowered half empty. The emotions of my mother were changing rapidly from frustrated to upset. Why were they half empty? My mother started yelling like a thunder as lightning seaing who could help her. Without us realising our siblings had made their way through the corridors to start complaining. Whilst mother was searching I looked into the distance of darkness, peering over my mother's shoulder at the sight of the empty lifeboats. Empty.

Suddenly, I saw <sup>children and wives</sup> people get pushed on top of the lifeboats by their loyal husbands. You could hear people's voices saying that they would always be remembered whatever happened. It either my father was here, a person who really mattered to me! They

100's of us, stood there, looking over board as the boat starts to tilt. Why me? My mother grasped me by the hand knowing we would be ~~gone~~ one way or another. Tears falling onto the surface of my mother's hand as we slowly slip back. She places her hand on my thumping chest singing songs in my ear. X My ~~mother's~~ voice ~~is~~ playing throughout me as I get hurled into the surface of the jet black water.

I float away as well as my thoughts for i'm absorbed into the coldness of the sea. Me and my <sup>brother</sup> sport from each other, jilling the sea with my trousers and hers. Bodies floating beneath me. I knew it was going to be me ~~but~~ that position for me Glim Alton, is only 3

and can't swim. My body tips over, and water fills my lungs with the salt of the water. My body then ~~plods~~ downwards. The Titanic was incorrect: it was able to sinkable.