**Note from Chair Person**

 

**Christmas** is fast approaching, and on behalf of the committee and the management, may I wish to all the families and children to have wonderful time and plenty of rest, fun, and food during the Holidays. Oh, and some nice presents, too!

Before we all depart for some Holidaying, please don’t forget to respond to our **survey** so we can start planning some further improvements in the next year!

We have welcomed some **new children** to the club. It is always nice to see new faces, and we hope that your child/children have settled in well and are enjoying their time in Little Villagers.

We have also said some goodbyes to other children who have left the club, but would like to wish them and their families the best of luck, and they know they are welcome back at any time. Some of the older children come back to do volunteering in the Holiday club or just drop in in the afternoon, and we are always delighted to see this happening!

**Our ladies** are never short of ideas, and I am confident that all the children in the club receive their good share of fun, games, extracurricular activities, including arts and sports, as well as a general warm sense of community. On behalf of the committee, I am expressing our deep appreciation and wishing the staff the very Happy Christmas!

Just to remind you **who is who**, since April this year there have been three committee members in Little Villagers, Sarah Brown (the Treasurer), Lisa Christison (the Secretary), and I, Alina Giles (the Chair). All normal club operations are directed by Nikki that you all would know very well, however, if needed, you are welcome to write to the trustees (see my contact details below). Trustees have obligation to act in the best interest of the charity and its members – our children. We oversee charity governing matters, significant financial decisions, change of structure and constitution, and so on.

Although **Gordon Gilchrist** had resigned from the position of the Treasurer in April, he continued to look after some matters of the charity with his last communication on the club’s behalf ending only in October this year. We are very grateful for Gordon’s input and wishing him a peaceful Christmas.

May I remind everyone that there’s no limit to the number of the committee members, and I’d like to welcome **more parents** on our board. Please get in touch any time.

**Money matters**

Little Villagers are due the annual return in January 2024, and so we’d like to share with our members that our income last financial year was £55,688 with the total annual expenditure of £52,860 that left us with a profit of £2,828.

Little Villagers were hit financially during COVID. Although we haven’t recovered financially, we are grateful to see our profit being positive 2 years in a row, after 2 year of deficit prior to that.

**Panto**

The children have enjoyed a trip to see Cinderella in Panto at Bathgate Regal Theatre. Everyone had some fun time!

This outing wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for one of our amazing parents **Sarah Montgomery**, who very kindly put us forward for the TK MAXX community funding, and we were given **£500**. Thank you so very much, Sarah!

**10k run Fundraiser**

Our very own Chairperson **Alina** completed her very first 10K run which took place in Edinburgh on the 22nd of October, not only did she smash her very own personal best, Alina raised **£268** for the club funds.

Thank you very much to Alina and all the parents who supported the fundraiser.

**New recruit**

We have had a new member of staff join us after the October Holiday. We welcomed **Gemma Ballantine**. She has worked with Early Years through her childcare career, so this is a nice change for her working with children of school age.

Gemma however has had experience working with children under the age of 16, as she was a Hockey Coach, and Hockey is one of her passions.

**Christmas Fundraiser**

The club are going to try and raise some more funds for the club by selling some Christmas Crafts. Each child will have the opportunity to create their very own **Christmas Canvas**, which will be available for parents/carers to purchase.

Details of prices will follow in a parent circular mail.



**Contacts**

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Find us on **Facebook** as

Little Villagers out of School Project

**http://www.littlevillagers.org.uk**