

CHAIR'S REPORT 2018 – Kay McElhinney

Got to Read is a small, local, entirely voluntary charity, and like all organisations dependent on people being able to donate their time, we have ups and downs in the availability of our workers. Although we experienced one such 'down' this year, I am really glad to say that we are back on track; student numbers are going up, we have had increased funding and local awareness of our existence has risen.

I'd like to thank the SCC Community Engagement people for underwriting the cost of the rental for the downstairs room for a year, which will make so much difference to people with mobility issues; the Cake And Revolution WI group who have adopted us as their charity for the year (after an amazing presentation by one of our brave students); and Willis Towers Watson for picking us for one of their monthly charity days – you'll have to wait for next year's accounts to see just how much this raised, but it was a very significant sum for us and we are very grateful to them and to the volunteer bakers who made the day such a success.

There has been a lot of local publicity recently about the issue of adult literacy and raising the standard of children's literacy in Ipswich, which can only raise awareness of the extent of the problem and enable more people to come forward. We will be liaising with Let's Talk Reading and Read Easy who both have time-limited targets to reach in addressing these problems and hope to set up hubs in community libraries in Ipswich in order to do so. –

CEO'S REPORT 2018 – Tracy Bose

2017 was a challenging year for me personally, especially in the latter half of the year, which in turn meant that I had a lot less time than usual to dedicate to Got to Read. I would like to acknowledge the support of the Trustees and volunteers over this period, in keeping Got to Read going and stable and in being understanding when things took more time than usual!

As always, it's been very satisfactory hearing about the achievements of students as they've progressed with confidence and skills in reading. I was particularly impressed and grateful to one of our longer term students who supported us in a presentation to the W.I group Cake and Revolution. She spoke very eloquently and from the heart about the difference coming to Got to Read had made to her.

I'm very much looking forward to what we might do this year. We have the opportunity and funding for a 2nd room in Tower Street which will give better disabled access and more flexibility with what we do. We've started a closer working relationship with the CAB which we hope will flag that we are here to more potential students.

I have hopes that we'll change things to enable volunteers, who want to, to take more active roles in shaping where we go next and look forward to seeing this happen. –