

**ASSOCIATION for the WELFARE of
CHILDREN in HOSPITAL**

www.awchwales.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 222294
(affiliated to Action for Sick Children)

Executive Committee 2008 - 2009

Caroline Crimp MBE — Chairman
Ennis Roberts — Hon Treasurer
Judy Evans — Hon Secretary
Clare Lamb — Minute Secretary

Mary George - Jan Williams - Ann Jones

If you would like to join us the Subscription Rates are :-

Individual Membership	-	£10.00
Family/Group Membership	-	£12.50

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ANNUAL REPORT 2008 / 2009

**ASSOCIATION for the
WELFARE of
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**Supporting Sick Children and
their Families in Wales**

Registered Charity No: 222294

Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital

Registered Charity No. 222234

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 28th February 2009

2008 £	Receipts	2009 £	2008 £	Payments	2009 £
	Opening Bank Balances :-				
387	Community A/c	200.31	230	Officers Expenses	154.83
690	Business Money Manager A/c	734.73	5	Amalgam fees	5.00
12773	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>13497.84</u>	506	Printing & Computer Expenses	544.52
218	Subscriptions	187.50	167	Insurance	182.50
1614	Donations	776.63	3410	Travel and Emergency funds	2445.00
324	Spring Charities Fair Plant Stall	281.36	630	Leaflets etc	
104	Winter Charities Fair	81.20	133	Balance Barbara Geen Award	100.00
810	Income Tax Refund	62.57		Miscellaneous	5.00
756	Bank Interest: Gross	713.94	200	Closing Bank Balances :-	
500	Norothy Walker Foundation	500.00	735	Community A/c	665.72
15	Play Ambulance Rental	20.00	735	Business Money Manager A/c	1722.33
300	Teddy Bear's Picnic	300.00	13488	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>12764.15</u>
15604		<u>16389.05</u>	9504		<u>58395.05</u>

Barbara Geen Memorial Fund 28th February 2009

2008	Receipts	2009	2008	Payments	2009
1207	Opening balance	1074.95	200	Grant	50.00
68	Interest	58.25	1075	Closing balance	1083.20
1275		<u>1133.20</u>	1275		<u>1133.20</u>

I have checked the above accounts and in the opinion of the signatory a true and fair view of the transactions affecting it at 28th February 2009. Signed M J. BROWN CHAIRMAN Date 12/2/2009

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Caroline Crimp

The words on everyone's lips this past year have been Credit Crunch. Our Treasurer reports how this has affected **AWCH** financially. It is logical to presume that **AWCH**'s work will also be affected in other ways.

Families will find it even harder to meet the extra expense of having a child in hospital, or needing to attend appointments. **AWCH**'s aim has always been that the criteria should be changed so that not only those already on benefit are eligible for help. With Government and local social and health services looking for ways to reduce their budgets it is becoming increasingly less likely that they can be persuaded to take on this additional burden. However, we will keep on making the point that relieving initial stress on families does much to lessen the risk of having to meet the cost of later consequential problems. We have held two positive meetings with Children's Commissioner's officers on this issue, stressing the child poverty aspect, but are awaiting feedback.

Hospitals themselves are facing cut-backs. The Play in Hospital reports show play staff continuing to make life a lot more bearable for children in hospital settings; it is sad to read, therefore, that the reports also show evidence of cutbacks and staff shortages. It is some years since we joined the fight, sadly lost, to retain Morrision Hospital's teacher, so does the loss of Bronglais's teacher signify the end of the era of on-site teachers? We would like to know. Anne Watkins (p 14) was a prime mover in the fight to have play, with trained play-leaders, generally accepted in children's departments, and would be extremely disappointed at these cutbacks. The coming year faces further reorganisation of paediatric departments.

AWCH has no paid staff and the Trustees, acting as its Executive Committee, have carried on throughout the year despite personal health and family problems; as Chairman, I am grateful for their continued commitment.

2009 celebrates the publication of the Platt report on children in hospital - the impetus for the setting up of **AWCH** in Wales and **Action for Sick Children** in England and Scotland. Little did we think then that fifty years on, although things have changed significantly, we would still be fighting for some of our aims to be met, and still have a role in ensuring that the gains made over the years are not eroded. Our membership secretary makes a plea for new members and the report of the sad death of John Lee, a member from the early days of **AWCH**, reminds us that none of us is getting any younger. New blood is urgently needed to enable **AWCH** to carry on until all its aims are accomplished. Please give it your serious consideration.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ennis Roberts

Would that the term 'Credit-Crunch' referred to the latest breakfast cereal on the market, but it doesn't, and we are left wondering how the world's finances have gone so terribly wrong. Unfortunately, charities large and small suffer a 'double whammy' because as interest rates plummet their income drops and, at the same time, the calls for help increase, and this is likely to be the scenario for some years to come.

Having had to dip into our reserves last year, we were concerned that we should try to live within our means this year. That we have achieved this is mainly due to our supporters, to whom we are most grateful. A collection made in the Morris Arms,

Morrison raised £500, while we were given wonderful donations of £100 by the Good Companions Club who meet in Sketty Park, and £120 from Sketty Methodist Church collections. Margaret and Alan Fabb held another Tranklement Sale for us which realised an outstanding £467. Once again Sarah Isherwood raised a marvellous £300 at her annual Teddy Bear's Picnic, and two charitable Trusts in Swansea donated £700.

We were very watchful of our expenditure, concentrating on our Travel and Emergency Fund for which we have had greater demand. However, the total was down on last year as the amounts asked for were smaller. We have been able to keep to our standard of never knowingly having to refuse help which came within our remit, but it is going to be even more difficult to adhere to this in the next few difficult years.

We are most grateful to Mr M J Beckett, CPFA(PT) AAT for auditing our accounts.

A copy of the full accounts may be obtained from me or is available on the **AWCH** website www.awchwales.org.uk

TRAVEL AND EMERGENCY FUND

Nicole Taylor

The two Swansea hospitals helped by the **AWCH** Travel and Emergency Funds, Singleton and Morrison, wish to express their thanks to **AWCH** for the grants given to them to support families for meals and travelling.

This year, a total of 19 families were helped by the Funds – most were given assistance with travel while a couple had financial assistance for meals.

The children came from as far as Haverfordwest, Pembroke and Cardiff. Both hospitals cater for children from all over South Wales. Children ranged from premature babies to a 17 year old.

In Morrison, the majority of admissions needing support were for families with children on the Burns and Plastics Unit. In Singleton, only one family came from the Special Care Baby Unit this year, others coming from the paediatric wards.

This year the cost of transport has gone up with a couple of cases receiving over £40. Some families may only need £5 - £6 to see them home.

The Social Work departments continue to monitor the funds carefully.

AWCH has also directly helped families from all over Wales referred by health or social services professionals, and other agencies. The letters of thanks that we have received show how much this help is appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Clare Lamb

AWCH would like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year 2008. We rely totally on voluntary contributions and fundraising so we hope you will continue to support **AWCH** by renewing your membership, also by telling your friends about us and the work we do. Anyone who works for **AWCH** does so entirely voluntarily. Your subscription is vital to us. We are getting many more requests for financial help from families visiting their children in hospital. As the economic recession

worsens, some parents are finding it increasingly difficult to afford the costs which travel to hospital entails.

Our colourful information leaflet has been well received by both official organisations and families. **AWCH** Newsletter too is a success, keeping our members up to date. There is also more information on our Web Site www.awchwales.org.uk

Subscriptions have risen very slightly to £10 for individual members or £12.50 for the whole family or groups. This has been necessary due to the increased demands on our funds which all go to help families. We would be grateful if you would sign the enclosed Gift Aid form. This will enable **AWCH** to recover the tax from the Government, increasing our funds. Anyone who is a taxpayer is eligible.

PLAY AMBULANCES

Clare Lamb

The **AWCH** Play Ambulances loan scheme continues to be a success. Every term a different Swansea School has borrowed one of the ambulances and equipment. During the winter term an ambulance was lent out of the area to Pontlliw Primary, this was made possible as Mr Harris, the headmaster, very kindly collected it himself.

Play Ambulances are advertised to Swansea Schools via e-mail, organized by Administration & Communications Manager, City and County of Swansea, Rhodri Jones. Our thanks to him. Details can also be found on our Web Site and in our Newsletter. More information about the organisation can also be found in **AWCH's** colourful leaflets, available free from the contact below.

The ambulances are suitable for both Reception and Nursery children and all schools have found them a worthwhile addition to the school curriculum of 'People who help us' and 'Ourselves'. The ambulances are delivered and collected in the Swansea area, with a £5 charge to cover costs for an entire term.

For further information or to book the Play Ambulance for your school: Phone: Clare Lamb 01792 205880
or e-mail: thelambs17@hotmail.com

PLAY IN HOSPITAL

Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust

Sue Reardon

Once again it hardly seems possible that another year has gone by.

Two of our Play Assistants are currently studying on the Hospital Play Specialist course; Kimberley is at Southwark and Corrine at Birmingham. We have welcomed a new Play Assistant Clair on to Land Ward where, in the short time that she has been with us, she has proved a great asset to the team. We have been visited by the rich and famous during the past year, from Royalty to sporting celebrities to American Superstars, not forgetting Father Christmas and the Easter Bunny. A three day Radiothon with one of our local radio stations raised somewhere in the region of £80,000 for the Noah's Ark Appeal, the charity for the new children's hospital here in Cardiff. Some of the team who were recorded and featured in the broadcast now have an option of becoming radio presenters instead of play specialists.

This past year has been busy, challenging and rewarding and we look forward to the same in the coming year, as well as planning and preparing for more special events including Play in Hospital Week.

Singleton Hospital, Swansea

Ann Jones

In the summer we were very fortunate to be visited by a very special couple. Minnie and Mickey Mouse came to see us all the way from America, or maybe it was Paris. It was a wonderful surprise and made a stay in hospital extra special. The visit was arranged by the Disney Association who also sent a huge box of toys to be shared out.

Our Christmas Party this year, held at the Liberty Stadium, was combined with Morriston Hospital. It was a great success, made extra special by a visit from all the players of the Swansea football team.

Morriston Hospital, Swansea Oakwood Ward

**Louise Evans
Madeline Jones
Lisa Morgan
Lettisha Howells
Lisa Richards**

We cannot believe it is that time of the year again for the hospital play report. We remain five play staff on Oakwood. We still have the bed reductions and the play staff are still being rotated to other paediatric areas on a rota basis. Currently, two members of the team are rotating leaving us with just three staff at the moment.

We have been fundraising throughout the year for, amongst other things, Children in Need. Our Annual Christmas party was yet

another success. It was the first year that Singleton and Morriston hospitals have had a joint party. The party was held at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, which was an ideal venue. The Swans attended and a good time was had by all, including the staff!! Our party was totally funded by a local businessman.

We have re-decorated the ward this year and decided on a Jungle theme which has been a roaring success! We have had various donations to the playroom over the past few months; out of the proceeds we have selected a variety of toys for general play and distraction. At present we do not have any ongoing projects, but the play team strive to continue the good work supporting the children and their families throughout the hospital experience.

Burns and Plastic Surgery Centre for Wales

The centre had a very busy year caring for children with burn injuries, trauma and reconstructive surgery. The Play Team consists of a Hospital Play Specialist and three nursery nurses. We cover all areas of the Burns centre where children are cared for, 7 days a week 7am until 7pm. Our new Burns outpatient department is now open with a separate paediatric waiting area and treatment rooms.

We have been out implementing our back to school programme for children with scarring issues, and practising health promotion in local schools. Crucial Crew was a great success in June 2008 but due to funding issues is unlikely to take place this year.

The Welsh Dragon Burns Club has been as active as ever; thirty-five children had a fun and activities packed five days at camp in Pendine, and a fishing day at Dyffryn Springs, Cardiff, was organised by the Environment Agency. The Christmas Party was in Swansea Liberty Stadium with face painting, a magician and,

the highlight, a visit from Swans football team players.

We are grateful to all those who support us with volunteer help, fundraising, donations and gifts. The ward itself raised over £200 for Children in Need selling cakes and chocolate Pudsey bears, and Centre staff, on a rota of an hour at a time over 24 hours sitting in a bath of jelly, raised over £400 for Comic Relief.

We look forward to another successful year, continuing to develop the work that we do, and would like to thank **AWCH** for their continued support – with many thanks for the funding provided which is a great help to parents.

Bronglais Hospital
Angharad Ward

Paul Harris

The last year has seen a lot of changes with the formation of the Hywel Dda Trust, but has also seen changes on a ward level at Bronglais Hospital.

Firstly, our educational provision has been drastically cut. Our permanent teacher (who was here for 2 hours a day during term time) had her contract stopped by the LEA last September, which is a great loss. We had worked together very closely for 10 years and in my opinion the close relationship between the play and education we provided was very beneficial to many of our patients.

During the past year our ward has also gone down to an 11 bedded ward (with the creation of a new treatment room). The playroom has, I feel, continued to improve, both in the quality of the play equipment we provide and the way it is managed. We have certainly had a lot of positive comments from the patients and the parents over the past year.

We are continuing to provide a ‘Hospital awareness’ scheme for local primary schools, inviting them to visit the ward. So far this academic year we have seen about 250 children in 12 visits and have had a lot of positive feedback from the schools involved.

As well as working on the ward, I am trying to extend my role to providing better support to other areas of the hospital, including A&E, Outpatients, X-Ray and theatre. This has led to an increased workload for me (as the only hospital play specialist in Bronglais), but will hopefully lead to a better overall play provision in the hospital.

Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen
Cilgerran Ward

Mari James
Kim Thomas

We are down to two staff members in the playroom; myself as a Hospital Play Specialist and Kim Thomas as a Play leader.

Cath Thomas has gone to work in Elizabeth Williams Paediatric clinic in Llanelli. At the moment it looks bleak for a replacement for her. She completed 28 years service as a Play leader on our ward and was a big asset to the ward as well as a great mentor and a reliable companion. Her contribution to the ward was a very valued one and her creative work was fantastic often helping me in the ‘art’ on the ward.

We appreciate valuable donations of the latest game consoles from a successful business man, and also the DVD players and craft activities donated by another local mother and son. We are also hoping to do a bit of refurbishment of the playrooms, in the next couple of months, as a local charity have chosen us as their ‘Charity of the year’.

Withybush General Hospital

**Ward 9 – Children and Young Person’s Unit Sandra Jones
Nicola Thomas
Jenny Phillips**

We would like to express our sincere thanks to **AWCH** for their very generous donation to one of our families in Pembrokeshire. The donation was instrumental in bringing a family together which had been apart for nine weeks. **AWCH** provided emergency transport expenses to help Dad travel to the UHW in Cardiff to see his young daughter and wife. We know that without help, this would not have been financially possible for this family.

We have been involved in the design of the waiting and treatment areas of the new Emergency and Urgent Care Centre at Withybush. This facility should open its doors to the public some time next year.

Jackie Broadhurst has now moved to pastures new and has taken a teaching post at the Pembrokeshire College. Unfortunately due to Jackie’s departure and staff shortages, we were unable to have our annual Christmas party, although organisation has already started for this year.

Again we have received many donations of Christmas and Easter gifts and money for children’s services. The donations certainly do help children, young people and their families during their time in hospital.

We are continuing to provide a ‘Hospital awareness’ scheme for local primary schools, inviting them to visit the ward. So far this academic year we have seen about 250 children in 12 visits and

The unit at Trehafod is undergoing many changes this year. At present there is provision for a Tier 2/3 mental health service in the downstairs day unit, running groups for social and emotional awareness, parent and child groups, with support for parents who have children already diagnosed.

The adolescent day unit will be a Tier 4 service. There is a busy outpatient service. There are many staff changes and the new Trust is at present Cwm Taf - Ymddiriedolaeth GIG/NHS, Chief Executive Mrs Margaret Foster.

We hope these new changes will bring about a more effective service, to meet the needs of our client groups. Many thanks for **AWCH’s** support.

Kenshole Children Centre, Aberdare

Julia Neale

It's been a good year. I have been getting busier with lots more individual referrals being made for children with developmental delay. I then work with the families, through play, to reach obtainable goals. I also work with other members of the multi-disciplinary team especially occupational therapists.

I do group work with the children who have Development Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) helping them with everyday tasks, like buttoning and using cutlery, in a fun way that helps them grow in confidence carrying out these tasks. I also carry out a lot of messy play with children who have sensory issues.

I hope in the next year to gain more experience working more closely with other specialities within the centre.

NAHPS STUDY DAY 2008

The National Association of Hospital Play Staff, Welsh Branch, held their fifth Anne Watkins Memorial Study Day on Saturday 27th September. The speakers were Jane Hawkshaw talking about Play Wales, and Joanne Jones who talked about her job as Play Development Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan. Her role is to develop inclusive play opportunities for all children 5-14, this includes play schemes and community based projects.

Play Wales or Chwarae Cymru is a national organisation funded by the Welsh Assembly to provide advice, support and guidance, and upholds the children's rights to play by providing quality play provision in their own communities. Jane explained how children use their environment to support their play, using a variety of materials, making choices and taking risks.

In the afternoon session we had a chance to play ourselves, we used our senses and got down to basics. We were blindfolded or given thick gloves and had to hold and examine familiar objects using our remaining senses. We also had some 'smelly' jars containing everyday smells and we had to identify them. The session was very worthwhile as we all spend a great part of our days providing opportunities for play but have little chance to play ourselves.

Anne Watkins Memorial Study Day 2009 will be on Saturday 26th September. The Hirstwood Training Ltd will be taking the day. They are experts on multi sensory training.

Ann Jones
Hospital Play Specialist
Singleton Hospital, Swansea

JOHN CAFFARATE LEE 1929 - 2009

At the time of going to press we have learned with great sadness of John's death.

John and Linda have been stalwart supporters of **AWCH** for a great many years, not just financially – Linda having been a very active member of the Executive Committee and John was always there to lend a hand in whatever way we asked.

A senior lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Swansea University, he excelled when it came to making shelves for our bottle stall, and working out the reasonable odds we could give winners! I particularly remember one occasion (the end of a long evening) when Linda and I had almost finished the tedious job of putting tickets into straws. In came John from the garden with a funny story and neither Linda nor I could remember where we had got to and had to start all over again! Yes, that is what I will remember most about John – his lovely chuckle!

We extend our deepest sympathy to Linda, her daughter Sarah and son-in-law Andrew.

Ennis Roberts

AWCH AIMS

To raise awareness of the needs of sick children and young people and their families

To provide information and support to children, young people and their parents/ carers

To work with professionals, other voluntary organisations, parents, children and young people themselves to promote quality health care for sick children in hospital, the community and at home