

Welcome!

This is the second year since the introduction of the Kids Kabin organisational plan 2007-2010 with its three new objectives – *expanding* activities into the streets, *developing* the role of young volunteers and *increasing* the capacity of the community to manage and run the project - in addition to running creative art activities at Kids Kabin and a programme of trips and residential.

These new objectives are now being realised with regular street activities, a strong team of young volunteers and with members of the community involved as regular volunteers and board members.

This review will look back over how all 5 objectives have been achieved during the year. We continue to be supported in all our activities by an exceptional *board*, *staff* and *volunteer* team and the hundreds of young people who create wonderful things day after day.

It is also time for us to look forward to the next 5 years and draw up our organisational plan for 2010 – 2015. There are some exciting ideas in the pipeline, so watch this space!



From the chair...

Oh dear, time for the message for the annual review - again. No, it's not 'oh dear', because the again is, as always, to introduce good news about progress and development. Yes, it has been a good year.

Probably so much has happened because of the conspicuous spirit of confidence abroad in Kids Kabin. "Yes, we can do it", "Yes, we have done it", "Come on, let's do it some more."

A tour of the workshops reflects the energy and imagination put into all the creative activities. Go now into the courtyard and you will be greeted by a new and productive vegetable and flower garden. And as for bikes! Bikes under construction, bikes being repaired, bikes producing power for innumerable gadgets, bikes to which trailers are harnessed . . . I won't poach more of the space designated for bikes in the following pages, but suffice to say that the energy generated by pedal power is a good symbol for Kids Kabin. And those trips which have become an expanding industry. Have you ever been winter camping?

It is not only what happens but who makes things happen. Young people, of course, but also staff, volunteers and that animal 'the board' which, thanks to growing interaction, is now a more familiar body to the rest. A notable development is that recent additions to board membership are a second parent and one of Kids Kabin's first kids.

Volunteers continue to be a large part of the Kids Kabin scene. Now added to the groupings of local volunteers, student volunteers, young volunteers, is another group. Last year the Sisters of the Assumption bought a house in Walker for the ALVP (Assumption Lay Volunteer Programme). To date the five volunteers who have occupied it have all come from overseas, the United States, Mexico and the Philippines. Their daily presence in Kids Kabin and other local projects has been hugely advantageous and introduced an internationality which has widened horizons. As is usual in such circumstances, volunteers discover, over their year of service, that the widening of horizons goes both ways and that they return home having received as much as or more than they have generously given.



Sadly, we say farewell to Victoria Brook, although happy in the knowledge that since she has been a project worker for such a long time there is no chance that she can forget Kids Kabin or Kids Kabin forget Vicky.

Sincere thanks to all who have given of their time, talents, interest and resources. We are fully conscious that without these things the ship would go down. Thanks to you all, though, we are not only afloat, but riding on the crest of the waves.

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Thoughts from a Volunteer

At one of my first sessions at Kids Kabin in 2001, a boy asked me a question; and he had to repeat it four times. Then Michele explained to ears unaccustomed to local lingo, "He is asking you which team you support." Portsmouth, Pompey, the best, I told the lad. No further questions. But despite that alien allegiance, I became accepted as Kabin crew and continued to work with an array of wonderful staff and great volunteers. Some of the students from University already had a wealth of experience in working for charity, in travelling abroad, or in working with children. Then there were the volunteers from abroad, so committed. Space does not allow for the litany of names of staff and helpers. It is just wonderful to be with them and to esteem their way with young persons who attend after school is over for the day. Their addressing these children is always polite, respectful,

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caring, helpful and where necessary, firm. Admirable qualities are apparent in the children, so it does not surprise me to see the young ones develop into pleasing personalities; and some of them have come back, giving time and effort, as volunteers, perhaps repaying a bit of what they have gained, and passing on the ethos to newcomers. Another treasure here is the Board of Governors. These persons give freely of time, expertise, knowledge, experience in all directions; administration, legal matters, accountancy, policies... well, as they say, you name it. They really are gifted people who see that the Kabin is well run. So manager, staff, volunteers, governors and attendees comprise the team which I support. The best. Their influence is immeasurable. (Yes, young persons do have a good influence - I have witnessed it). It's Champion, a team top of the league.

Ralph Loftus, volunteer