

## LCGB committee reports 2009 (job descriptions on website)

**Honorary coordinator** *Clare Meynell* (post open)

Report to be given at the conference and published in the next issue of Treasure Chest.

**Conference organisers** *Sarah Brown and Carolyn Westcott* (new postholders welcome)

The confirmation of the conference venue and the speakers allowed early advertising. Information was sent to all members as well as handed out from the LCGB stall, placed in other breastfeeding conference packs and advertised on all free journal and e-mail sites, as well as paid advertising in some journals. It is difficult to predict if this is the reason why we have a record number of people booking for the event, especially in these times of economic restraints. The aim was to keep costs low but still maintain quality. Part of our agreement last year was to develop a full database for the conference – now achieved by Carolyn.

The conference will make a profit this year but presently we are unable to state exactly what that will be. A change this year is asking for payment for conference inserts from anyone who is not a LCGB member. These charges ranged from £250.00 from companies such as Jones & Bartlett to £50.00 for smaller companies/businesses. This extra money has enabled us to provide the wine for the evening meal. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us especially the local members of LCGB. We can continue for another year in the same way, but are happy if anyone else wants to compete on this. For next year, would members consider having an extra day as a pre-conference day? We could then offer clinical skills workshops by the main speakers for Thurs pm and Fri morning for those interested.

**Exhibition stall coordinator** *Jean Waldman* (post attached to Dep Coordinator – help welcome)

Over the last year there have been several conferences specifically about breastfeeding, and we have been represented at the following: *June*: ABM, London; *Oct*: Womb to World, London: SW Reg, Exeter; Little Angels, Bolton; *Nov*: Medela, Manchester; BFI, Glasgow; *Dec*: Bliss, Nottingham; *Jan*: Bliss, London; *Feb*: Bliss, Bristol. Special thanks to Alison Blenkinsop who represented LCGB at several of these events.

The stall enables us to distribute information about LCGB, ILCA and IBLCE to a wide range of health professionals and groups of volunteer BF helpers, as well as selling items related to lactation interests. Most enquiries come from people interested in the exam qualification. Having several helpers on the stall means we have time to talk to everyone. My thanks to all who helped this year, including Susan Jones, Karla Napier, Martina Donaghy, Jill Asher, Ilona Ramsey and Hilary Myers, plus other committee members.

**Librarian** *Denise Pemberton*

I find this an enjoyable job and am happy to continue to do it. The library has been used by some members during the year. Unfortunately some items borrowed at 2008 conference have not been returned, despite me contacting members to request this. We do have someone waiting for one of the items. I have not been able to bring the library this year due to space in my car being limited. The list of assets on the website has proved useful for people to request items. We are looking to buy new additions as some books are now looking quite dated. I shall be browsing the stalls at conference to find some new material there. I had intended to get some at the VELB conference but they were all in German!

**Media liaison** *Alison Blenkinsop* (post open)

I've enjoyed helping to raise our profile and improve BF information in various media by many letters and emails. It's been a fascinating job, but I need to hand this work on now.

I helped with the republication of Mary O'Shea's tongue-tie leaflet as '**Tongue-tie and infant feeding**' which includes a tribute to Mary, who had been updating it when she died last year. It's now on the website, and a short version is proving popular as a tear-off sheet. The **website** has been frequently updated, thanks to John Westcott, and has more information and links, including news of **Asibi Onyioza** IBCLC, our ILCA partnership programme link in Nigeria. The **Find an LC** facility is being well used, and our publications are better advertised. We have removed links to Midirs and Bliss because of their involvement with non-Code compliant companies. We now need to modernise the site and improve our Google rating. BFI now has more info about us, and I've plugged LCGB in my book *Fit to Bust*. I collaborated with Clare in writing for *The Baby Bible*, due out soon, which raised funds for LCGB. I've recently written about contraception and BF for RCM's *Midwives* with help from Pamela Morrison, who offers ongoing support to the next ML officer.

**Membership secretary** *Sheila Company* (post open)

LCGB membership is flourishing with 200 members, an increase of 24 in the past year. As far as you have told me, this comprises 4 Honorary, 140 Full & 56 Associate members. There are 287 current IBCLC's in Great Britain. If my maths is correct, that means that 143 IBCLC's out there are not members of LCGB. Unfortunately, IBLCE won't allow us to contact newly certified LCs to join LCGB.

My job involves keeping all the information of members' details up to date. This isn't as simple as it sounds, as sometimes I've needed to do some detective work. For example, I'm awaiting clarification from IBLCE as to which of our members whose status is uncertain are currently certified. IBLCE won't give us a list of current IBCLC's in GB because of strict privacy laws in Europe. It is important to forward any changes to your details to update the membership spreadsheet, which is available in the members' area of the website. Sadly, some haven't acknowledged my request to renew cheque subscriptions. Once payment is 3 months overdue, they will be removed from the membership in accordance with the constitution.

Also in the members' area is a link to the online Yahoo egroup forum, dedicated to LCGB members to ask questions, share information or generally let off steam about BF issues. There are currently 60 members who have signed up, so only 140 yet to join! I've enjoyed my time as membership secretary, but am now happy to hand over the reins to another member. I'm sure many of you will be competing for the job!

**Newsletter editor** *Lucy Simnett* (post open)

Although it hasn't always been easy, four Treasure Chests have been published this year with the help of contributions from many people. Many thanks to you all. I would like to thank Alison Blenkinsop in particular as her input has been over and above the call of duty. I have continued to send a hard copy to all members, mainly because I haven't worked out how to make a pdf file out of the Publisher document. This can be achieved, so do consider whether you are more or less likely to read it if it came via email.

I am looking to hand over to someone else now as I think the newsletter may be getting a bit stale and new ideas are necessary. It doesn't just happen, it needs people to write for it. Go on, you can do it.

**Secretary** *Lyn Scazafabo* (post open)

I have been responsible for sending out the agenda and minutes to all membership about once each quarter. I work directly with the **recording secretary** (*NB no report received*) and the committee to do this. I also arrange for venues for additional meetings or liaise with others if they have connections for venues.

If some issue needs feedback from the general membership I will send out an email to all listed members. The membership secretary updates me about every three to six months or more often to make sure that my contact list is current. I also correspond with different groups or agencies to help raise the profile of LCs in conjunction with the media person or to question information or policy that may affect us or HCPs and BF supporters. Correspondence and connecting the communication to all members is probably my main activity. I need to hand over to someone else now.

**Study Day Coordinator** *Gwyneth Ward* (new postholder welcome)

I have enjoyed this role, which is really not too time consuming. It simply involves keeping up to date about all the available Breastfeeding Study Days and Conferences. These are then disseminated to all colleagues, via Treasure Chest and the LCGB website. It also involves keeping lists of Study Days and Conferences, and making sure that these reach the newsletter editor in time for the next deadline.

It would be a good role for someone who has never been on the committee, but if no-one does come forward I would be happy to carry on with the role for a further 2 year period.

**Treasurer** *Hilary Myers* (post open)

Our total income from subscriptions for last year was £5,310. Most members are now paying by standing order which has made the work of the membership secretary and me much easier. The balance at the end of last year was £7958, down on the previous year. There was a deficit of £982 due mainly to the costs of last year's conference venue. It was our biggest expense – but what a fantastic conference it was. Every year our conference gets better but this does make an enormous financial commitment and we need a minimum of £10,000 available before arrangements can even start. A copy of the audited accounts is available to any member who wishes to view them.

LCGB provided financial support for several causes: **Baby Milk Action**, the **Babyfeeding Law Group**, and the **ILCA partnership Programme** through which we are supporting **Asibi Onyioza** from Nigeria. She qualified as an IBCLC last year and is doing tremendous things as the only LC in Nigeria! More about her in the next Treasure Chest. Alison Blenkinsop has fully repaid the **loan** for publishing her book *Fit to Bust*. **ILCA group membership 2009** A record 31 LCGB members took advantage of the 10% discount through this scheme. Membership runs from Jan – Dec and the treasurer needs forms and cheques by late Nov.

Finally, I have enjoyed the challenge of being treasurer for the last four years and hope one of you will feel able to take over. I will support you and ensure a smooth handover. If I can do it... anyone can!