

AGM Address March 29th Headingly Leeds

A Warm Welcome to everyone.

A year has flown by. I want to thank so many people for what they have done in the past year I feel a bit like an oscar winner standing here but I promise not to do a Halle Berry number.

I owe huge thanks to all the members of the committee, who work tirelessly behind the scenes, in order to make the association run smoothly.

All of them have work commitments and family responsibilities and yet they still make extra time for LCGB work.

Gill and Hilary have done hundreds of hours of work to get this conference organised. many thanks to them.

Big thanks to;

Alison our media liaison who has her antennae switched on all the time.

Lucy our editor for doing a wonderful job with our magazine.

Sheila for collating the membership list which is a huge and constant task.

Denise for looking after the library

Hilary for handling the money.

Lyn and Lynda for their secretarial support

A very special thanks for Jean Waldman recent past co ordinator who has helped, prompted and pointed me in the right direction on many occasions.

We should be all aware that some of these people may want to hand over their responsibilities shortly so if there is anyone out there with a burning ambition to join the committee please come and talk to us.

I am very pleased to say the association is steadily growing with currently members and associates. If there are any recently joined members here today, I and the committee, extend a special welcome to you and please don't be shy in introducing yourself to the person sitting next to you.

Those of you who are planning to take the exam in July we wish you the very best of luck.

I took my first step into the focused world of the Board of Certified Lactation Consultants 12 years ago and it has opened many doors and enabled me to expand and enrich my working role. I wish that every LC sitting here would recruit another person to the association this year. My aim is one day to have LC's accessible in all parts of the country.

The recognition of the qualification of Lactation Consultant is gaining status in this country and now many PCT's are requesting the services of LC's in the NHS and in Private Practice.

These LC's have helped to raise the profile of "breastfeeding helper" to "clinical specialist" in the eyes of the public and health professional arena. LCGB has been represented at many conferences last year and thanks go to the members who have managed the stall at these events, giving out information and generally being the public face and heart of LCGB

LCGB is continuing to make a valid contribution at the Baby Law Group meetings, helping to tighten the laws on the marketing and advertising of breastmilk substitutes. Their input is hugely important in stemming the violations of the Code.

Members have been involved, along with many other breastfeeding groups, in the Breastfeeding Manifesto Coalition's development of a new DVD which will be distributed to all pregnant women after Breastfeeding Awareness week in May this year.

My own look to the future is to encourage mother to mother support. There is a growing band of enthusiastic peer supporters who are now actively working in hospitals and in the community.

I want to emphasise the recognisable difference, especially in my own area, that they are making to the understanding of what breastfeeding really means to mothers and babies. Without their support and friendship many mothers would have given up at the first hurdle.

One voice may be heard but I like to remember that wonderful word TEAM which means Together Everyone Achieves More.

So here we all are united in our commitment to improve the breastfeeding support situation in every part of the country to the long term benefit of mothers and babies in our care.