

How Time Flies!!

Olive Browne

We came to Wales from Nottingham when my son was six months old and he will be thirty-seven in July 2007!!!

I had previously run a playgroup for my church in Nottingham and when people knew this I was asked to start one in Penarth. This I agreed to do but was unprepared for people asking why I was having fundraising events when the money was going into my pocket. We explained to them that the group was a fundraiser for the church and we were paid very little as it was a charity. PPA was not in vogue here but I am pleased to say it soon was and is flourishing still. My daughter is running a playgroup in Creigiau and following our traditions and recipes but having much more paperwork to do for Social Services. Karen is hoping to hand over her group in July to take up a new career as an NVQ Assessor.

We had great times getting our groups going and gradually building up our ties with PPA and soon Myfanwy Edwards became our National Adviser with an office in Newport and I became one of the early South Wales Association Chairmen. The training courses which we had fun planning and running, soon became a 'must' for all playgroup personnel and have become very professional now. Meetings in Llandrindod Wells and Newtown became part of our lives and, in particular, I recall a winter one in Newtown when the snowy road was closed behind us.

The trip to London to meet Princess Diana, Patron of PPA, was indeed something to remember and how beautiful she looked.

My 'children' are now 45, 41 and 37 years old – how time flies but with eight grandchildren I am kept quite busy.

When sadly my husband died after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease, I applied for and was successful in becoming a Carer Member on our Local Health Board, which is keeping me very busy as well.

Olive's elder daughter has recently been appointed by Wales PPA to the post of Training Co-ordinator in Cardiff. Eds