



# PRAIZIN' HANDS PUPPET GROUP

## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2023 - ISSUE: 17

### SPREADING OUR WINGS

All 3 teams are currently very busy with rehearsals and presentations. Lots of work is being undertaken behind the scenes, not only for the remainder of this year but also busy at work to prepare for 2024 and future themes / messages.

We are spreading our wings into a few schools in the Southampton area, mainly due to teachers who have moved from local schools to city schools who wish to continue relationships with Praizin' Hands and introduce their new schools to the work we do with the puppets.

### ADOPT A PUPPET

Thank you to Fee who kindly adopted 'Shirley' for her friend Celia.

If you would like to know more about the scheme, please email [info@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:info@praizinhands.org.uk) and we will send you details. They make an ideal Christmas present!

### EQUIP FESTIVAL

The Little Hands Leaders, along with the schools project team are working hard on a song to enter a Puppetry competition at the beginning of November.

This will take place at the Equip Festival in Rugby and will be a time for the puppeteers to learn new skills and meet like minded puppeteers. There are lots of props and backdrops currently being made as well as several rehearsals happening in the weeks leading up to it .

### PRAYER FOCUS

Give thanks to God for our new Puppeteers in both our Little Hands and Big Hands team.

Please pray for the Big Hands Team as they take the Christmas presentation into various venues this Christmas. Please also pray for all those who will watch whether they be children or adults.

Please pray for the PSHE Schools Project team as they take the 'Looking after our world' into schools.

Please pray for the Little Hands team as they learn a couple of songs for December. Pray for the audience to be encouraging and supportive to these wonderful young people.

Please pray for the Equip Festival being run by One Way UK, that people will attend and learn new skills to spread God's word. Bless the small group from Praizin' Hands who are entering the competition, that the focus will be solely on the message of the song that we will be presenting to spread God's word and to encourage other puppet teams.

Please pray for Praizin' Hands to find a new suitable building, for people to be willing to actively look out for local buildings, as well as people to commit to praying for an urgent solution. Pray that finances will also be provided for this, as we step out in faith, trusting in God.

### DONATIONS

We have recently received a donation from 3rd Southampton Girls Brigade company for £150. This donation was made following the sad closure of the company.

We have also received £285 from the donations made in memory of David Kitcher, one of our Stage Team Crew who recently passed away.

Thank you to all concerned.



## BIG HANDS TEAM UPDATE

We held a Taster session for Big Hands at the end of August and we are delighted to welcome Sue to our team. Sue is settling in well and it is great to have her as part of the team. We were also very happy to welcome back Maz and Margaret after a little break.

Our Big Hands team are well and truly in the thick of Christmas rehearsals! They have a busy schedule planned taking the Christmas message into many schools, a residential home and Naomi House and Jacksplace. They will also be performing their Christmas presentation at the Mistletoe Fayre in Hythe on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We do not know our time slots as yet, but please keep an eye out on Facebook nearer the time or send us an email.

If you feel that being an 'upfront person' is something you would like to support Praizin' Hands with (this means the one talking to the children/residents and tying it all together) then please do get in touch ASAP. We already have a fantastic team who do this for us but it would be great to have one or two more to be able to share the load.

The dates and venues that our Big Hands team will be out and about are:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Dress Rehearsal – All Day  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November – St. Michaels' and All Angels, CE Infants,  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Netley Marsh CE Infants  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Orchard Infants  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Fawley Infants  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Marchwood CE Infants  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Colbury House Nursing Home  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Hythe Primary School – 2 performances  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November AM – Calmore Infant  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November PM – Copythorne CE Infants  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Mistletoe Fayre, Hythe - 3 performances  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Orchard Juniors – 2 performances  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Wildground Infants  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Waterside Primary  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Wildground Juniors  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Blackfield Primary - 2 Performances  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Marchwood Juniors  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Manor CE Infants  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Naomi House and Jacksplace

## PSHE SCHOOLS PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

Since September, the schools project team have been very busy working on our 'Looking after our world' presentation with which we are currently touring Infant schools. In this presentation, the children are taught to put their rubbish in a litter bin and if there are no bins, that they should take the litter home with them. We also teach them to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle their rubbish, alongside teaching them that each one of us has a very important part to play in looking after the wonderful world that we live in.

The dates and schools we will be visiting are as follows:

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Marchwood CE Infants  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Blackfield Primary  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Copythorne CE Infants  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October – St. Michael's and All Angels CE Infants  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Orchard Infants  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Manor CE Infants  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Netley Marsh CE Infants  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Hythe Primary  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Eling Infants  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Wildground Infants  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Calmore Infants  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Fawley Infants



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## LITTLE HANDS PUPPET TEAM UPDATE

We held a Taster session for new prospective puppeteers, in September, and we are delighted to say that 3 new puppeteers have joined the Little Hands team. They have all fitted in extremely well to the team and everyone gets on very well together.

Apart from the various games and activities, we include on our evenings, the puppeteers are working hard learning a couple of routines that they will be performing to their families and the Big Hands team on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, between 8.00pm and 8.30pm at Blackfield Baptist Church Hall. Refreshments will be served. Please email [beverly@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:beverly@praizinhands.org.uk) if you would like to come along and support our young people. It will be great to see you.



The theme for Little Hands in 2024 will be 'Daniel and the Lion's Den' with a focus on prayer.

Therefore, in our Devotions currently, we are thinking about prayer.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, we have a bowling trip planned for Little Hands and we look forward to a social time together.

Our last session before Christmas will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and we will be having a Christmas party.

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## BBC SOLENT MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

We had a great day at the BBC Radio Solent 'Make a Difference' Awards ceremony on Tuesday 26 September at St. Mary's Stadium.

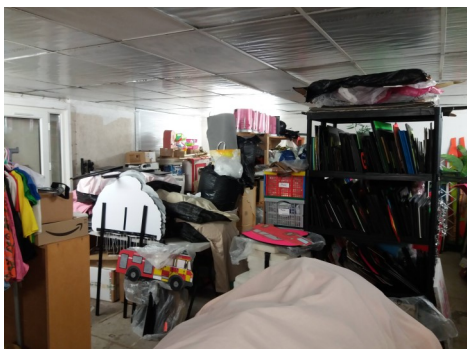
Thank you to BBC Radio Solent for hosting the event and well done to all the worthy winners. Praizin' Hands received a Highly Commended Award



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## STORAGE - PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

When we set the puppet group up as a charity, we consolidated all our equipment into a single storage location. This has proved very successful having all our equipment together, but the increased range of topics the PSHE team now offer, along with the new puppets and other props and equipment we now have for the other teams, we are running out of space. We also have the added problem of dampness ruining some of our equipment.



Our current unit that we hire is in Hythe and is about 60 sq metres (10 m x 6 m). The units location also enables us to drive the van up to the doors for loading and unloading, something we would definitely need in a new unit.

We are now on a hunt to find a large unit that we can hire in the local area to further support the charity's development. The ideal solution would also have some additional space for us to do some of our rehearsals there.

As a charity relying on donations to fund our work, our funds are limited, but if anyone knows of a vacant unit in the local area that may be suitable please get in contact with us at [info@praizinhands.org.uk](mailto:info@praizinhands.org.uk) — Thank you

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