

## SHINe AGM 2008

### Chairs' report

Good afternoon

Our AGM may be viewed by some as a necessary evil in the life of an organisation, but it also provides an opportunity for members to glimpse how their Committee operates, and what it has done in their name over the past year. I am, until this AGM finishes, co-chair of SHINE, alongside Lynn Easton, and I hope that over the last two years we have managed to put SHINE on a firmer footing than at the time we took over.

The co-chairing of SHINE could be seen as an experiment in interpersonal relations, and it isn't always the best way to run an organisation, but it was born out of necessity and has helped to share the burden of chairing meetings, making decisions and working on SHINE business. Although it's me up here doing the Chairs' Report, I would like to thank Lynn who has been the genuine driving force behind SHINE over the last two years. I personally think that people shouldn't stay too long on Committees to the point where they become institutionalised, but this approach does require the membership to get more involved in Committee work and in SHINE working groups. I would therefore ask all of you to consider whether you can contribute something to the work of SHINE by volunteering – this year, above all years, we really would like to see more new faces stepping forward to help out.

A lot of work has been done over the last two years by Lynn and her team to identify what SHINE is, what it does and how to do it. Consequently, there has never been an easier time to volunteer for SHINE Committee, as you can find out exactly what that entails by visiting the website and looking at the various documents there which detail the roles and responsibilities of Committee members. You'll find they are maybe less daunting than you imagine.

Over the past year the SHINE Committee has met 4 times, once in East Kilbride and three times in Glasgow, largely due to the geographical spread of Committee members.

I would like to record my thanks to those who have served on the committee over the past year : the co-chairs (Lynn Easton and myself), Alison Bogle, Anne Donnelly, George Dougary, Liz Garrity, Michelle Kirkwood, Valerie McClure, Tracey McKee, Amanda Minns & Joanna Ptolomey

I would particularly like to thank Michelle Kirkwood who is stepping down as SHINE Journal editor after many years in the role. In addition, I'd like to thank Treasurer George Dougary and Secretary Tracey McKee who are stepping down at this AGM, as well as Val McLure and Anne Donnelly who are also stepping down. All these people have given their time and their effort to help all of you, the rank and file SHINE members, and for that I think they deserve a round of applause.

You will shortly hear more about the work of SHINE from our working group reports but I should also point out that the work of the Committee depends very much on the members themselves, who form the backbone of our organisation. All too often an organisation is identified by its leaders, but I feel SHINE is a good example of an organisation where the work of members sustains the organisation rather than the organisation sustaining the members. SHINE is all of us, and we all have a job to do for our users and the public in general.

SHINE now has a seat at the top table of Scottish libraries through its involvement in the work of the SLIC Board. We as an organisation now officially represent the interests of health libraries in Scotland, and have a role as advocates for health librarians with the ear of the people who matter. It

is fair to say that the role of SHINe has never been more crucial – we really can and do make a difference, and I would like to thank all members, both present and absent, on behalf of the Committee, for the continuing excellence you display in taking our profession forward.