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SCHOOL CHARITY EVENT RESCUED BY LOCAL CARPET CLEANER

A prompt clean-up of the headmaster's new office carpet by local carpet cleaner Andrew Bright saved the day and a local school's annual donation to the World Wildlife Fund – he gave his services free of charge so the school did not have to dip into the day's takings. What started out as the ideal summer charity barbeque on Saturday at Lipton North Primary School ended in a nightmare, as a sudden thunderstorm forced the feasting indoors and a newly-decorated office was ruined by an unsupervised food fight.

It was every teacher's worst dream: the bad weather had diverted adult attention to bringing the barbeque food indoors before the rain spoilt the whole event, and in this time, a handful of youngsters found the door to headmaster Barry Long's office open. Escaping the gaze of teachers and parents, the children crept into the room, and started throwing around their sausages and burgers (liberally doused with ketchup). By the time the missing group was discovered, the new carpet was decorated with well-trodden barbeque fare.

Mr. Long said: "The behaviour of a few unruly pupils at Lipton North nearly cost us most of the results of our fund-raising for the World Wildlife Fund. If it hadn't been for Andrew Bright giving up his Saturday afternoon to sort out the carpet, which now looks as good as new, we would not have been able to make the full donation to WWF – something the school is proud to do every year. We have spoken to the children concerned and they have said sorry."

When asked why he had given his services free of charge, Mr Bright explained that his own children had been pupils at Lipton North a few years ago. "I wanted to give something back to the school, which my kids had attended and enjoyed, and carpet-cleaning is something I am professionally-qualified to do."

Ends

NOTE FOR EDITORS:

Andrew Bright is a trained member of the National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA), the UK's nationwide trade body for professional carpet cleaners. (<http://www.ncca.co.uk>)

Photo of Barry Long and Andrew Bright with some Lipton pupils holding cheque for World Wildlife Fund available

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