

## **Friends of Foundry Lane Primary School AGM**

### **Chairperson's Report**

**30 September 2016**

Thank you all for coming today. I would like to start by thanking all the members of 2015 to 16 committee, particularly the officers, for all of your time, ideas, and hard work. This has been a really good year for Friends. Cheri will go into the numbers in more detail, but the headlines are that after expenses we raised £7000, and we have just been able to donate £10,000 to the school to be spent on 25 new laptop computers.

This year we have also been able to pay for new Spanish resources and new books for the library, as well as smaller items like pond-dipping nets. Some of these are things that will not be visible to the parent community, so we must ensure that we celebrate our successes and let everyone know what they have contributed to.

At the start of the year we agreed that the team did not want to work quite as hard as it had in the previous year, which had left a number of people completely exhausted. I'm not sure how well we did at this. We dropped a number of events from the calendar without significant impact on funds raised (Quiz night, Selling night, pamper night, spring party), but the big events still involve a lot of hard graft.

The main events of last year were the Pumpkin Party, the Festive Fayre, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Fete. We also supported the school discos, sold ice lollies on hot Fridays, and ran several cake and uniform sales. It has to be said that the parent community definitely prefers buying cakes to baking them, as it is always a bit of a struggle to raise donations. On the whole we made a very good return on all of our events.

A couple of things flopped. An attempt to recruit new faces by getting a regular team going at the Santo Lounge quiz night didn't work out, and park meets in the Easter Holidays didn't get the response we might have liked.

One thing that I was particularly happy with was the veritable army of volunteers that we had to help with the Summer Fete. I think there were more than 70 parents who gave some of their time to help out, plus staff, and I'd like to thank Debbie for doing the majority of the hoof work involved in recruiting and co-ordinating the volunteers. The trick seemed to be approaching people on a personal basis, so we must apply this to our other events.

Looking forward to the year ahead, the school have asked if we could focus on raising money to buy and install much needed new playground equipment. This will be an expensive business. If we are to raise even half of the money required we will have to make some changes. I don't see that there is any need to mess around with the events that we know will work, but we may need to think about adding some more, and about leveraging other sources of income. Crowd-funding, grant applications, employers matched-giving, donations from local businesses, and school lotteries are all things that we need to look at as a matter of urgency, so if anyone in the school community has experience in these areas we need to know about it!

Friends also need to be more visible, and I think a clear fund raising target that we can show progress against will be one way of doing this. I suggest that we set our target for this year at £10k – an increase of £3k on the total raised last year. That may sound daunting, but nothing ventured, nothing gained! Sadly in the current climate there is a distinct lack of money coming from local authorities, so we will have to raise it for ourselves.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of staff who have supported our efforts over the last year, in particular the lovely ladies in the office and Nigel and Allen of the site management team.