
The Friends of Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) School

(Charity number 298123)

AGM MINUTES

Location:	The HUB at Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School & Google Meet
Date:	18 October 2023
Time:	7:30pm
Attendees:	Mrs Kristen Weiss, Stella Llong, Teodora Smith, Elspeth Dunn, James Dunn, Alison Wood, Laura Starley, Luci Pollard, Emily Gooch, Carla Edwards, Becca Hoare
Apologies:	Steph Smith, Rachael Foster, Sarah Smith, Melisa Newbury , Liz Callaghan

Agenda details:

Previous Minutes

- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 19th October 2022 - Approved
- Matters arising from the Minutes – All action items confirmed closed

Chair's Report for 2021/2022 (slides 2-3)

Stella Llong gave an update and an overview of the achievements over the past year. As her final AGM as Chair, she thanked several members in particular Tedy Smith for her dedication as Treasurer.

Committee Update (slide 4)

Alison Wood gave an update on the committee. She thanked Stella and Tedy for their service to the school as Chair and Treasurer over the past 2 years.

Alison also advised that she would like to step up from the Vice-Chair role to the Chair and Bex Hoare has applied for the Vice-Chair position.

She also discussed how we do not currently have anyone standing for the Treasurer role however the incoming committee will collectively support this position until we have found someone and are grateful that Tedy has said she will still be on hand to answer questions.

Stella was presented with some New Zealand Dollars to use on her upcoming adventure, we hope she enjoys using them to treat herself.

Tedy was presented with Afternoon Tea for two at Eastwell Manor, again a much deserved treat for all her hard work.

Achievements for 2022/2023 (slide 5)

Elspeth Dunn presented the top achievements from 2022/2023, this shows the dedication the whole Friends Association has to the school and thanked all the volunteers for their continued hard work.

2023/2024 Vision (slide 6)

Alison Wood described the vision of the incoming committee, it has three main focuses. these are;

- Building the school community both internally and within the greater community
- Giving the children greater opportunities and events
- This year we are looking towards the future, not just in the short term but for the children's futures

2023/2024 Fundraising (slide 7)

Elspeth briefly explained some of the planned fundraising events will be during 2023/2024. She picked out a few, in particular the Kitchen Items appeal which was launched a few weeks ago where the parents were asked to provide items directly from a wish list. We are only outstanding a few items from this list which is a brilliant accomplishment.

Treasurers Report for year ending 30 September 2023 (slide 8)

Teodora Smith gave an update on funds raised over the last financial year and highlighted the events that were the most successful.

Election of Trustees of the Committee

Confirmed that Stella Llong is stepping down as Chair and Teodora Smith is stepping down as Treasurer. Alison Wood has been elected Chair. Rebecca Hoare has been elected Vice chair. Rebecca has been added as Trustees, Alison and Elspeth remain Trustees.

Use of Funds 203/204 (Slide 10)

Alison presented the new process in which the school requests funds from the Friends Association. This gives greater clarity on where monies are required and the impact it is having for the children.

AOB

No AOB raised

MEETING ENDS.

Appendix:

Appendix 1 Chair Report

Appendix 2 Treasurer Report

Appendix 1

Stella Llong, Chair of Friends of Lady Joanna Thornhill, End of Year Report

Thank you for coming to what will be my last meeting as chair of the friends of Lady Joanna Thornhill. During my time as part of the committee we have had some fun and some challenging times, starting up after the covid break was certainly a big challenge and we did this as well as we could.

My aims were to give the children things back that they had missed out so badly during the pandemic. Unfortunately, not all the regular events could take place, but together we still managed a good two years of events.

Our first event was an ambitious one to say the least. HAPPY'S CIRCUS came to Lady J. Although it was a lot to get all the relevant permissions needed, I believe this was well worth it. How many children can say they had a circus come to their school?

We had many positive comments and hoped to have them again in June but due to sickness, Mr Happy had to cancel. It's a shame, as I'm sure that they would have become a regular at Lady J. I wish Mr Happy all the best in his retirement.

We had a covid restricted Christmas fair which was a great success. Ashford panto came to do a sketch for us and we all enjoyed it so much I'm pleased to say they're now regulars at Lady J's Christmas fair. The children's choir come to sing for us too, joined by Rev Holy.

For the Summer Fair our local fire brigade attended, and our Vicar Rev Holy came to sing for us again, but as always, the children were the true stars of the fair with their amazing class performances.

Then our second ambitious event was FIREWORKS Night, this again came with legal and council paperwork to deal with but so worth it in the end. The children and parents had a great evening together.

During my two years with the friends, we have raised just over fifty thousand pounds (£50,112) and of this nearly thirty three thousand pounds (£32,812) has been donated to the school for many projects such as Opel, Hive and most recently the dance studio, to name just a few.

I will leave Teodora Smith to go through the year end finances in detail.

We have also joined Parentkind and adopted their constitution and insurance. They have a help line for any advice the charity may need, along with endless resources to help run thousands of events. I feel that this will hold the charity in good standing going forward.

I'd like to acknowledge Amanda Maclean who was the secretary at that time, for all the hard work in making sure all legal and council documents were in place for the most challenging events to go ahead. Also, for applying and gaining a charity Google share account, which will certainly make the work easier for everyone going forward. Thank you, Amanda.

Kaite Coles and I have given the pre-loved uniform a new look from clothes thrown into a box to a shop of lovely, neat, well-kept clothes, where you can get a complete uniform for £2. This has been well liked and supported. Thank you, Katie.

I'd like to thank all the class reps, parents, and carers for all your help and support. Without you, none of the most valuable money for the school could be raised. You are all fabulous.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Teodora Smith. Where can I even start to thank her. She has given me her of support and advice throughout my time as chair and I couldn't have done it without her. I just hope she forgives me for getting her involved. Tedy you are truly one of life's good ones. Thank you so much for all you have done for the friends and supporting me, and I will always be grateful to you.

I know I leave Friends of Lady J in very good hands and wish the incoming committee all the very best in every event they run. I will look forward to coming along and joining in the fun.

Thank you,
Stella Llong

Appendix 2
Treasurer's Report

Year ended 30th September 2023

This year the Friends worked really hard to raise money for the school. We raised an income of over £25,727.00 (a £1,342.37 increase on last year). We had some big events like the Summer Fair, where we made £5,253.03 (and a profit of £4,168.81). The Christmas Bazaar and Hamper Raffle also did great, bringing in £5,267.93 (with a profit of £4,267).

We tried something new this year - The Fireworks in November, and it was a big hit! We made £7,020.03 (with a profit of £3,490.47).

Our chair has been passionate about developing the 50-50 Club, which has been live since February 2023 and has raised over £700 with a profit of £350.

This year we applied for local community funding from the local Co-op in Wye, and we have been fortunate enough to receive a payment totalling £1,830.07 from the Co-op.

We also took part in the celebrations of the Coronation of King Charles III with coronation tea towel designs from each class. We raised £1,857.15 (profit £692.65)

Our Vice chair got involved with a new initiative this year. She has introduced school merchandise, which we are offering for sale at each event. This is going well and is providing extra income.

The Cake and 2nd -hand uniform sales raised a profit of £1,520.45, half of which has been distributed for the teachers and the kids to spend as they wish.

This financial year we were able to fund £12,000 towards the development of the new performing art studio, which we hope will be a great success with pupils and the school.

We also funded £3,500.00 towards early years development setting, as well as a donation towards OPAL.

Finally, we continued to support the magazine subscription for 'Wye's Words.' We love reading about what the kids write in the Friday newsletter.

In total the Friends have donated £22,429.76 to the school.

The Friends' bank account balance as of 30th September 2023 was £10,813.51

Teodora Smith
Treasurer