



Friends Association of Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) School

AGM 2023

18th October 2023, 19:30

Chair's update on 2022/2023

- Thank you for coming to what will be my last meeting as chair of the Friends of Lady Joanna Thornhill.
- Our first ambitious event of 2022/23 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 OPAL, Hive and most recently the dance studio, to name just a few.
- Katie 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.

Chair's Goodbye

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.

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kept clothes, where you can get a complete uniform for £2. This has been well liked and supported. Thank you, Katie.

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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

Committee update

- Stella Llong and Tedy Smith are stepping down from their roles as Chair and Treasurer as of today. We would like to say a huge thanks to them for all her help and organisation.
- We would like to ask the Friends to join us in electing our new committee members and trustees once we get to the action in the agenda.
 - Alison Wood is standing up to become Chair.
 - Bex Hoare is standing as Vice Chair.
- We are obviously a Treasurer role down, however the 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.

Achievements for 2022/23

- It has been a busy year and have had some key events which have delivered which have generated over £25,000 turnover
 - Fireworks
 - Christmas Fair plus other Christmas events
 - Summer Fair
 - Discos
- The start of our 50:50 club which has been a great success.
- We were really please to be asked to contribute towards the new performing arts studio which was progressed during the summer holidays with a donation of £12,000.
- We also support the Continues Play Provision for year 1 with their Learning Journey and look forward to this progressing through the whole school with a donation of £3,500.
- We worked closely with the OPAL committee in bring this vision to life within the school, along with a donation £1,000 for the newly created sandpit.
- The Creative writing subscription has been continued to Pupil Magazine, where pupils can contribute to their own online magazine, Wye's Words, helping to increase pupil engagement and enjoyment of writing and providing an opportunity for public celebration of pupils' writing and we are proud of the commitment the children have shown through their writing.
- The HIVE area has been completed, with delivery of the canopy/sail that was destined for this area. We are awaiting the school to decide upon its final location.
- We were again successful in being selected to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. A big thank you to all Co-Op members who chose us as their charity.

2023/24 Vision

- Building the school community both internally and within the greater community
 - Termly adult focus events
 - Investing in the volunteers
 - Working closely with the school by attending pupil inductions, OPAL meetings and volunteering for class trips.
- Giving the children greater opportunities and events
 - Pantomime in January within school time
 - Other events to be agreed upon.
- This year we are looking towards the future, not just in the short term but for the children's futures
 - reducing the use of single use plastic
 - Providing solutions via the merchandise for coffee cups and bags.

2023/24 fundraising

- This year we are organising some new events and some old favourites:
 - Fireworks display
 - Christmas Fair and Raffle
 - Summer Fair
 - 50-50 club
 - Kitchen equipment appeal
 - Quiz
 - Walk around Wye, a family treasure hunt
 - Parent evening events (termly)
 - Year group cake sales
 - Discos
 - Pre-loved uniform /book sales
- In addition to the above, we have again made a submission to be beneficiary of the Co-Op Community Fund, which we have unfortunately not been successful this time. However, we are looking at other funding sources.

Finance update 2022/23

Table 1. Financial summary

Category	(£)	Comments
Events	23,471	See table 2
Donations	2,257	Co-op funding £1,830, Print Junction £376, Amazon Smile £51
Total income	25,728	
Event costs	(7,128)	
School funding	(22,430)	£12,000 towards dance studio, £3,500 towards new early group setting, Money from cake sales for each class, Pupil's magazine, further equipment to Hive and Opal
Other costs	(3,542)	
Total expenditure	(33,099)	
Surplus/(deficit)	(7,372)	
Opening Balance	18,185.27	As at October 1, 2022
Closing Balance	10,813.51	As at September 30, 2023

Table 2. Main Events Income

Event	Income	Costs	Profit(+)/Loss(-)
Christmas Fair	£5,267.93	£1,000.93	£4,267
Fireworks	£7,020.23	£3,529.76	£3,490.47
Summer Fair	£5,253.03	£1084.22	£4,168.81
Cake Sales	£1,520.45	£0	£1,520.45
50:50 Club	£700	£350	£350
Coronation Towel project	£ 1,857.15	£1,164.50	£692.65
Discos	£203.50		

Committee structure 2023/24

Core Committee

Role	Name
President	Mrs Rachael Foster
Chair	Alison Wood
Vice-Chair	Bex Hoare
Treasurer	
Secretary	Elspeth Dunn
Teacher Rep.	Mrs Kristen Weiss

Class Reps

Year	Class	Reps
R	Butterfly	TBC
	Bumblebee	Cath H
1	Fox	Steph S, Elspeth D
	Hedgehog	Melisa N, Emma H
2	Rabbit	Bex H, Alison W
	Squirrel	Sarah H-J, Sam W
3	Blackbird	Hannah M, Angelina T
	Chaffinch	Penny W, Katie C
4	Kingfisher	Laura S, Luci P
	Parrot	Lydia C, Sarah S, Amanda M
5	Puffin	Emma D, Becky C
	Swift	Robyn DC, Jessica P, Sophie F
6	Woodpecker	Johanna M
	Wagtail	Elizabeth C, Lu Y

Use of 2023/24 funds

At last year's AGM we agreed to a large amount of monies to being committed to the update of the Performing Arts Studio; we are thrilled with how amazing this project is coming along.

Going forward, we would like to have a greater understanding of where funding is being used and the impact this funding is having to honor our constitution.

Therefore, we have implemented a Google Form where the school digitally applies for funding to ensures an audible trail for future committees.

Upon receipt of this form, the committee will meet and decide upon the level of funding.

If funding is approved, partially or in full we will follow up these requests once the the project is complete to ensure the monies have been spent and the impact it has had for the children.

This process, allows us to have a wider view of requests and accountability back to our members.