



# Friends of Great Rollright School



## Chair's Report on Activities and Achievements in 2016-17

**Chair: Michelle Jones**

Welcome to the Friends' AGM! Thank you all for coming along. It's brilliant to see some new faces here today!

I wanted to start today by providing a bit of background about the Friends.

The aim of the Friends is to organise a social life for the school whilst raising much needed funds. Funds which help advance the education of all the pupils in this school by paying for activities or providing facilities and equipment which support the children.

The Friends of Great Rollright School is a registered charity and all members of the Committee are trustees. We have a Constitution and comply with the Charities Acts in terms of keeping financial records, etc

The current Friends' Committee consists of myself as Chair, Sarah Brown as the Secretary, Helen Hare as the treasurer, and the members-at-large Neil Broadhurst & Boun Norton. Both Mrs Hewett and Miss Hastings are also trustees. Lisa Williams attends meetings and volunteers regularly as well. We tend to meet at least once every term. We bring our fundraising ideas and importantly we also bring ideas from other parents and supporters to the meeting. We take our lead from Mrs Hewett and Miss Hastings on how we might allocate funds raised and every decision is made by a simple majority of votes, generally cast at a Committee meeting.

### Highlights of last year

1. We had a very successful year, raising over £17,300! Wow! Well done everyone, an amazing result!
2. Ongoing fundraisers – parties for the children, Chastleton teas, school fete.
3. New ideas we have run with this year – live music at pop-up pub night, 100 Club, Christmas raffle
4. It continues to be a huge highlight for me to see the benefits of the money the Friends have spent in the past year, the evidence so to speak...

I can see these benefits every day through our children's' experiences at Great Rollright and I'm sure you'll agree it makes it worth all the effort. The children all benefit from the school hall refurb, iPads, coaches, library books and Birds of Prey exhibition all the school got to experience during World Book Day.

Having 3 children at the school I can think of numerous examples of where they and their classmates take advantage of our fundraising efforts...

Gordy is in Year 1. He will go on his first coach trip soon, funded by the Friends. He plays in the sand pit we paid for, he is part of Forest Friday and paints regularly in the aprons we bought!

Elodie is in Year 4. Last year Friends paid for coach trips to Oxford (Botanical Gardens and Ashmolean Museum), coaches for swimming. Hockey is her new passion and we've paid for the new hockey goal posts.

Turner is in his final year now. Friends paid the substantial cost of the coach to his first residential trip last year to Hooke Court. The cost of his residential trip this year will be paid for again by our funds. Coaches to first aid training and author visits were also taken care of by Friends. His class benefitted from the music lessons and the Bikeability course (similar to cycling proficiency but better!) paid for by Friends too.

Another important part the Friends has to play is our role in the local community. I am delighted to say that our pub night was well attended by villagers and the wider community. Likewise it fills me with pride to see how supportive the village is of our annual summer fete and how many of them have signed up to our 100

Club. We advertise events which may be of interest to the village on posters and more recently on social media.

### **The year ahead**

We have our ongoing financial commitments this year which Helen will discuss next. We plan to hold a pub night on 7<sup>th</sup> October and we have a final date at Chastleton on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Next term we will hold a Glow party for the children and replicate the Christmas hamper raffle (thanks to Zoe Claxton for this idea last year). We hope to hold a sponsored event as well as continue with Chastleton teas in the new season and of course we will organise our summer fete. I hope we will have much more to reveal to you once the new committee is in place.

It is important to acknowledge that we have had some struggles with running events and finding volunteers. However, we have pulled through and had a hugely successful year and this is largely due to our current committee.

Leading me nicely on to the current committee. Special thanks must go to each and every one of them. We wouldn't have had such a successful year without the commitment of Neil, Sarah, Helen, Michelle, Anne, Boun & Lisa. Thank you all so much!

I do want to single out Helen. She put in a huge amount of time and effort to get Gift Aid off the ground. She is never great at taking credit but thank you! I am sad to say that Sarah will be standing down as secretary. Thank you for all your efforts, we appreciate all you have done.

I also wanted to thank the Fete Committee who did such a sterling job. There is an awful lot of work and planning in advance but it was worth it as it was an amazing day - Neil Broadhurst, Sarah Brown, Edwina Fawcett, Helen Hare, Ellie Latham-Mollart, Martene Midwood, Boun Norton, Mick Soper, Sam Thorburn & Lisa Williams.

I would also like to thank our community of Friends - from the families who attend events, to those parents, carers and staff at the school who volunteer or help us in any way they can.

I feel that we can be incredibly positive about the year ahead. I look forward to hearing any fundraising suggestions you may have which the new committee will discuss at our first meeting.

Thank you for listening!