

Friends of Great Rollright School

Chairperson's report

Chair: Martene

4th November 2022

Welcome, for those new to the school my name is Martene and I have been Chair for 2 years but part of Friends since Finlay joined the school 6 years ago, and I am very proud of who we are and what we achieve.

The AGM is the PTA's only formal meeting of the year, the other meetings focus on what we do and when and how we go about it. Friends is a friendly group, we try to meet once a month usually in the pub or at a members house, now with the additional benefit of zoom! We have become friends alongside delivering the purpose.

We are a charity and our sole purpose is to provide fundraising and social events for the school community.

Us, the Friends work extremely hard around our own busy lives to ensure we can meet the annual monetary commitments and provide the extra funding above the schools very tight budgets which Kate will tell us about shortly.

Those wonderful people need a thank you:

Our secretary - Charlotte Gasson

Our treasurer – Kate Drake

Our Trustees –Rebecca MacRae, Rachel Keenan and Kate Wood. I will mention just Clare Newcombe Evans and Hayley Timms. Clare was a trustee but stepped down part way through last year but has continued to support us at the various events. Hayley has been a wonderful member who has attended all meetings, contributed ideas and convinced all her family to give their time to our events. Mrs Hastings for her continued support, her wish lists and the focus on spending for our wonderful school.

A few other thank you's;

- Jo in the office for support on admin and the newsletters.
- Local and national businesses who have been individually thanked
- Plus the Friends helpers, who generously bake, give time, design posters, man stalls, lend equipment, sponsor, donate and contribute.

We appreciate everyone.

I will just take a moment to reference back to Kate. Kate has decided to stand down from the role as Treasurer, we are truly grateful for her time and effort in what is probably the most challenging role and the one we certainly depend on when counting up all the pennies raised. We will miss your 'drum roll' announcements of cash but are so pleased that you will continue to be a Trustee. Thank you, I would like a round of applause please.

We should celebrate our success; the spectacular Autumn Fair, which we are pleased to say is an annual community event, the stress levels running up to the day quickly dissipate when we can sit back and see what was achieved, how well the children behaved and enjoyed the day, BUT most of all the announcement of how much money is raised!

The Christmas Wreath making, who knew it would be fairly simple and we could all be so creative. Lots of jovial chat and laughing with amazing mince pies and mulled wine! We are bringing it back this year, if you have seen the poster, sign up!

The family Bingo nights are such fun, it's great for a social and to win cash prizes. 1/3 of the profit is kindly donated to Friends.

We have also celebrated the Jubilee with 'name the corgi' and the school tea towels, fun and memorabilia to look back on. Any chance we can take we will.....
That was just a few highlights.

The survey was a first and it allowed us to have direct contact with everyone, it was a good response rate and provided an insight into what our members would like, we will be repeating this to ensure we listen to feedback and ensure our events are open and accessible to everyone.

The biggest challenge to the Friends achieving our purpose; that is to raise funds for the school and create social events for 2022/2023 is ensuring we have plenty of volunteers and to balance the activities when faced with the rising costs of living. We still want to create a social calendar and provide for the school.

The success of fundraising by the Friends has a real positive impact on the enjoyment of the school and the enhanced learning experience for each child and Teacher. We must continue the great work and develop our ways of engagement and fundraising.

How can we do that? Please tell us.....

We will look to engage the new families in the school, ask for members that can help at events but may not be able to commit every month. Ask members for ideas and ways of reaching our purpose.

Continue our positive platform for future committees and trustees ensuring there is always a flow of people to fill the roles and responsibilities. Everyone is a member and can make a contribution no matter how big or small to the success of Friends.

We want Friends to be known throughout the school and we will continue to deliver on our promise.

We have so much to look forward to and everyone please join in.

Future events include:

Christmas cards, Wreath Making, Christmas Market plus the Christmas raffle, Chastleton Teas, Family Bingo, end of term bake sale, more parties and an end of year BBQ celebration!

We encourage ALL to get involved, even just once in the school year really helps.

Best wishes,

Martene
Chair