

**Newbridge School Parents & Friends Association AGM 12.10.2015.**

**Chairperson's report.**

The make-up of our committee has remained stable, which is always a big help, and we have only really lost people through retirement, or moving away, and as Chairman I am grateful to all members for continuing to be involved and offering support. Although school staff is not in the PFA name as such, they play a significant role in the running of our Association and I would like to offer them all our appreciation. In the coming year I see one of my main tasks as welcoming new parents & friends on to the committee, really with an eye to the future to make sure that there will be a healthy number who can take up the responsibilities and develop even further the events and activities that a PFA should do.

Finances as the Treasurer will let us know are in a healthy condition, and money is available for school projects. Louise has ideas about a more structured approach to using the money we have in our accounts, and we look forward to developing that in the coming year. We continue to grow the minibus account, and there are other projects that could be supported e.g. a PA system, hall curtains. Some money has been spent in 2015, for example School Scapes activity panels. Harvey has once again worked hard for the PFA and raised donations such as £900 from Menatwork. Through advertising for the fete and the quizzes, the PFA continues to promote the school in the local community, including via contact with other organisations.

The fete this year gave the impression of being a real success, one of the best ones for quite a while. The reorganisation of the hall layout, and signage, showed great improvement. Just a little more tweaking is maybe required to make it even better next year, and feedback from the committee will be invaluable. Praise should go to the staff who have put in a lot of effort for this year's event, thank you to Brian for creating excellent signs. Visitor numbers were up, and there were a lot of new faces, and it appeared there were more children this year. The make-up of the fete stallholders has changed over the last few years, and we now have new people who are enthusiastic in being involved and have already noted that they want to return next year. The inclusion of the children's room was a great success and hopefully can be developed next year.

The Redbridge pearly queen, Peggy Oliver, has been a regular visitor to our fete over the years and we were very sad to hear of her death in September. We will miss her.

The school website states that it is an all phase special school, and the word special is used a lot by the visitors who come to our quizzes, fetes, and other occasions, and the PFA will continue to promote this as part of our dealings with the outside community.

October 2015