

# Minutes of Friends of Arbury AGM held Monday 21 September 2015, 7.30pm

**Present:** Ros Cairns, Rachel Soley, Suzanna Wood, Ginny Swepson, Claire Gascoigne, Dawn Taylor, Lissy Klaar, Laura Hones, Yvonne Pollitt, Esther Dry, Annabelle Martin, Judit Jones, Zuzanna Lovell, Binod, Paula Frame, Aleyda Mestres, Sylvie Russell, Richard Wood, Diane Rawlins

## Welcome and introductions (RC)

RC welcomed new members and outlined FoA's purpose and typical yearly schedule of events. Purpose is to enhance school life for the children and bring the community together, with fundraising as a secondary aim. Typically there is one event per half term, plus two KS2 discos, a KS1 puppet show, and coffee mornings for reception parents.

A termly newsletter has recently been produced, detailing our activities and how we spend the money raised. There are now 127 people in the FoA Facebook group and 80-100 people on the email list.

## Financial Report (LH)

See attached balance sheet and Finance policy.

**Expenditure:** Historically there has been a sum of several thousand pounds in the FoA account which has remained unspent for various reasons. Following a survey of the school community about 18 months ago, the woodland project (see later) came out as the most popular item to spend funds on. At the last AGM it was therefore decided to allocate £5000 of FoA funds to this project.

The second most popular item was an outdoor ping pong table for the junior playground, reputed to cost around £1000. We discussed whether to allocate money to this or do another survey. Given that the junior playground is currently in the process of being re-equipped, in consultation with the children, it was decided to allocate £1000 each to the junior and infant playgrounds.

£50 has been allocated per class per year for Golden Time equipment and £50 for class trips. This year these funds have not been taken up. ED offered to produce a reminder for class teachers that these funds are available.

**Income:** all our events made a healthy profit, except the half termly teas which made a loss of £5.14. The summer fair this year was especially profitable, thanks in part to the weather. The raffle alone raised over £700, thanks to selling tickets in advance and the fantastic work by CG in securing desirable prizes.

## Review of the year's events (RC)

Welcome tea/ coffee for reception parents: this is on the first 2 days of the Autumn term. Around 20 parents came and it was appreciated.

KS2 Discos: LH and JW lead a good team of helpers organising these. The pocket money stalls have been especially successful at recent discos. Admission to the disco is free, and this means kids can enjoy spending their money on trinkets and snacks. Cleaning up during the disco makes the task less onerous at the end.

Christmas fair: SW and ED led the team for this last year. For the first time it took place in the early evening (6.30-8p.m.) and included craft stalls. A lovely event.

Spring Fair: this was low-key this year with cakes and books (second-hand and cost price new) being sold, profits being split with Comic Relief.

Summer Fair: as stated above, this was a huge success. Good innovations this year included having the whole fair on the field and giving out a programme in advance. The participation of Cambridge University Museums and Kinnerz Coaching ensured that children had free art and sporting activities to do.

KS1 Puppet Show: we are now using Widdershins Theatre Company who are very good.

## **Plans for 2015/2016 (RC)**

RC shared the list of proposed dates for our regular events and asked those present to sign up if they wished to co-ordinate/help with any of the events. Any events without co-ordinators will not be able to go ahead. It is hoped that others who were absent at the AGM may wish to add their names to the lists.

## **Autumn Term**

**Welcome Tea for Reception parents** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Autumn Term Tea** – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, 3.15pm (Expressive Arts Hall and adjoining room)

**Autumn Junior Disco** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 6.00-7.30pm

*\* Laura Hones and Jo Wilson (Co-ordinators)*

*Helpers - Ginny Swepson, Claire Gascoigne, Sylvie Russell (TBC), Paula Frame, Rachel Soley...*

**Christmas Fair/Event** – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December (Time TBA)- (Expressive Arts Hall and adjoining room)

*\* Esther Dry and Annabelle Martin (Co-ordinators)*

*Helpers - Ginny Swepson, Laura Hones, Aleyde Mestres, Dawn Taylor, Sylvie Russell, Rachel Soley, Suzanna Wood, Judit Jones, Yvonne Pollitt, Padmini...*

## **Spring Term**

**International Tea** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 3.15pm - (Expressive Arts Hall and adjoining room)

*\*? and ? (co-ordinators)*

*Helpers –Laura Hones, Binod Shresthe, Claire Gascoigne, Sylvie Russell, Yvonne Pollitt...*

**Easter Fair/Event** – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 3.15pm - Sports Relief -(New room and Junior playground or hall and infant playground)

*\* Claire Gascoigne and? (Co-ordinators)*

*Helpers - Ginny Swepson, Aleyde Mestres, Yvonne Pollit, Claire Gascoigne, Esther Dry, Padmini...*

## **Summer Term**

**Summer Term Tea** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 3.15pm - (Expressive Arts Hall and adjoining room)

*\*?? (Co-ordinators)*

*Helpers - Laura Hones, Yvonne Pollitt...*

**Summer Junior Disco** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 6.00-7.30pm

*\* Laura Hones and Jo Wilson (Co-ordinators)*

*Helpers - Ginny Swepson, Esther Dry, Claire Gascoigne, Sylvie Russell (TBC), Paula Frame, Rachel Soley, Judit Jones...*

### **Summer Fair – Friday 1st July 2016, 3.15pm**

*\* Annabelle Martin, Claire Gascoigne and ? (Co-ordinators)*

*Ginny Swepson, Laura Hones, Binod Shresthe, Aleyde Mestres, Dawn Taylor, Sylvie Russell, Suzanna Wood, Rachel Soley (TBC), Yvonne Pollitt, Padmini.....*

### **Infant Puppet Show – June/July 2016 Date TBA**

### **Future Leadership of FoA (RC)**

RC reminded us that her initial term as chair was 2 years, which expired over a year ago. She has been finding the role less arduous since others stepped up to lead individual events; however it would be good to ensure succession once RC and contemporaries no longer have children in the school. It would be great if some people could shadow the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer with a view to possibly taking these on in the future. Anyone interested should contact RC.

### **Woodland Project (RW)**

Richard Wood, who is a governor and structural engineer, is part of the group which is leading this project, along with SW, BT, Martin Bray and Becky White.

He reported that the ground was cleared last spring by a team of 25 volunteers from the school community, saving an estimated £1000. Since then progress has been held up by delays to the hall extension and boiler replacement, which have absorbed the attention of BT and the Governors' premises committee.

The plan is to build an outdoor learning area at the far end of the field from the school building, to incorporate a fire pit which can be covered to form a stage with tiered seating. There will also be a shed for secure storage of equipment. Excavation took place over the summer, and the plan was to use the leftover soil from the Class 6 extension, but this was found to be full of rubble. It is hoped that the main work will be done over this winter ready for use next summer. Involvement from anyone interested would be welcomed.

### **Gardening Club (SW)**

This continues to flourish. It takes place on Monday lunchtime, staffed by volunteers, and children from KS1 take it in turns to participate in twos. There is a yearly cycle of activities, with a highlight being the production of the pumpkin and other veg at the Harvest Assembly.

### **Bilingual Families project**

Lissy has been putting together resources on raising bilingual children, including books, games and a page for the school website. Involvement from others would be welcomed. A budget of £100 from FoA funds was agreed for this.

### **Christmas Cards (RC on behalf of SS)**

Last year we offered parents the chance to order a pack of Christmas cards designed by their child, which were then professionally printed. These were offered on a not-for-profit basis at cost price of £3.60 a pack. 120 parents ordered them. We could do this again this year if someone is willing to take on the project, but would need to come forward soon as the cards have to be ordered in October.

### **Arbury Carnival (DT)**

The school contribution to the carnival, led by a team from FoA, was very successful in spite of bad weather on the day. New for this year were 2 after-school workshops by Kettle's Yard art gallery, at which children made their own alien costumes. The previous school banner had mysteriously gone missing, and it was noted that the new banner would be stored in the blue container.

### **Easy Fundraising (CG)**

This scheme makes a donation to your chosen charity when you shop online. RC has been using it and reports it truly is easy; there is no catch! SW suggested we promote it to the school community during the Autumn term.

### **AOB**

RC suggested it would be good to make our own tin can alley and coconut shy if anyone has the skills.

CG would like to see more non-sporting clubs after school; DR said she would look into this.

A question had been raised about whether the FoA Facebook group should be a private group, but it was felt that members had no concerns that privacy was being breached. Information shared should benefit parents of our school community and not be for personal gain. RC felt this was being adhered to; however the group does need more than one administrator. Currently Amy Lee is the only one. RC to liaise with AL to increase the number of administrators.

YP 24.09.15