



Registered Charity : 1093374

Annual Report 2014–2015

Annual General Meeting 6th October 2015

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Festival of Nations – Community Day

Chair's Report

I can't believe how quickly the last year has gone! It only seems like yesterday that I took on the role of Chair. We've had a fantastic year with more people joining the committee and more parents volunteering and becoming involved.

We have held many of our usual events—Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Community Day, 3 discos, Spring Celebration & World Book Night at Wingfield. In addition to this we have also supported a local charity close to the hearts of families within our school community—South West Children's Hospice. Thank you to all the families who kindly donated items to support the opening of the local branch of this charity.

This year's Community Day, Festival of Nations, embraced and celebrated diversity within our school and wider community. The whole day had true community feel and we received some really positive feedback.

This year the links between the schools within the Academy Trust has grown stronger. We have all supported one another and shared good practice. We have also built links with the School Council, who not only promoted our events around the school, but volunteered their time to run stalls.

Thank you to all the families who have generously supported The Friends events over the year. The money raised has enhanced outdoor learning with the installation of play sheds, mud kitchens, sand pits, welly storage and materials to repair the raised flower beds and some of the outdoor areas.

Our aim for the next year is to engage with and meet the needs of the families and our community. This year want to try some new and exciting events and have already booked a Ladies Pamper Night, where you can book mini pamper sessions from massage to gel nails, and lots more! We are also thinking of a fashion show.

Finally I would like to thank staff and committee members for all their hard work and support. Without you all the events wouldn't be the success they are. Being Chair has not only increased my peer support group, it has engaged my children within the school as they now see me as an active part of their school life. My final thanks go to all the children—seeing the smiles and enjoyment makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Becky Owen,

Chair, Friends of the Mead

Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31/07/15

		Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	Note	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Voluntary income: donations, commissions and fundraising	2	31975	31325
Investment income	3	1	1
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>31976</u>	<u>31030</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable expenditure	5	26949	15383
Costs of generating funds: fundraising	6	7562	7567
Governance costs	7	603	538
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>35114</u>	<u>23488</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR			
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		-3136	7838
Total funds brought forward		16154	8316
Accrual		<u>6341</u>	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>19359</u>	<u>16154</u>

BALANCE SHEET

		2015	2014
	Note	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		19359	16154
Accrual		<u>6341</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>13018</u>	<u>16154</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>13018</u>	<u>16154</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted income funds	8	13018	15280
Restricted income funds		<u>0</u>	<u>874</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>13018</u>	<u>16154</u>

VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Donations	170	170	562
Commissions	401	401	626
Fundraising	15987	15987	14714
Xmas card income	1926	1926	1531
Gardening sales	223	223	13
Giftaid refund	301	301	361
Raffle income	1774	1774	1966
Sponsorship	1153	1153	1311
Uniform sales	257	257	291
	<u>22192</u>	<u>22192</u>	<u>21375</u>
Restricted fund grant	9784	9784	9950
Total	31976	31976	31325

INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 2015	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
Gifts & prizes	141	141	266
gifts to staff	0	0	8
grounds costs	4223	4223	2506
presents for leavers	1476	1476	986
Items purchased for school	7742	7742	0
	<u>13582</u>	<u>13582</u>	<u>3766</u>
Community day restricted fund expenditure	13367	13367	11617
Total	26949	26949	15383

FUNDRAISING COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£
Bad debt	0	0	0
xmas cards	1199	1199	952
xmas expenses	967	967	818
consumables	231	231	376
disco expenses	458	458	512
equipment	244	244	656
friday freezer	0	0	362
hire of equipment	150	150	90
printing / postage	166	166	184
raffle expenditure	434	434	572
refreshments	1671	1671	764
summer fair expenditure	1161	1161	1293
uncategorized expenditure	869	869	988
cake sale expenses	4	4	0
chocolate bingo expenses	8	8	0
	<u>7562</u>	<u>7562</u>	<u>7567</u>

GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£
WWDC Lottery registration	41	41	62
NCPTA annual fee and insurance	316	316	236
Accountant fees	246	246	240
	<u>603</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>538</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Net current assets	Total
	£	£
Unrestricted Income Funds	13018	13018
Accrual	6341	6341
Total Funds	<u>19359</u>	<u>19359</u>

Nicole Fleet, Treasurer

The Committee

We have a committee of 15 Parents, 1 Teacher Representative and 1 Governor Representative who plan & organise our events. In order to operate we must have a committee each year.

Committee Members 2014-15 (as elected at AGM 2014):

Chair Becky Owen

Vice Chair Jenny Warren (Hilperton Site) & Rebekah Searle (Wingfield Site)

Treasurer Nicole Fleet

Secretary Beccy Wedeman

Plus 12 Ordinary Committee Members 2014-15: Nicola Gould, Lucy Lewis, Melanie Jacob, Helen Be-treen, Claire Twyford, Tracy Ince, Sarah Edwards, Madeline Raymond, Justine Macalister, Tim Holden, Sophie Thwaites, Maria Houlton

Teacher Representative Miss Sarah Penny

Governor Representative Mrs Lindsay Palmer

Other Key Roles within The Friends

Book Club Co-ordinators

Nicola Gould has been our new Book Club co-ordinator for the Hilperton Site over the past year—many thanks. Book Club at the Wingfield site has also been running successfully over the past year thanks to the hard work of Rebekah Searle and Jayne Ogborne. Volunteering on the Book Club rota is a really enjoyable way to get involved. If you are interested in being on the rota, please do get in touch. Book Club runs weekly on Friday lunchtimes and will be restarting soon.

School Uniform Shop

Many thanks to Claire Twyford for continuing in this role over the past year, with help from Nicola Gould. Donations of second hand uniform (in good condition) can be left in the school office at either site. Sales take place each on Friday afternoons, alternating between each site. School uniform sales have raised £286 this year.

Gardening Club and Grounds Development

The Friends continue to allocate a yearly budget to support Gardening Club and ongoing grounds development and maintenance. Mel Jacob and Jacky Good continue run gardening club and work tirelessly across both sites to ensure the grounds are fantastic. Thank you to both, for your hard work.

Some of Our Events and Fundraisers

Summer Fair

This year 's Summer Fair was well attended. The BBQ was extremely busy, selling out yet again! Active Trowbridge was really popular with the Gladiator Run. This year the fair had a real community feel and it was so nice to see families past, present and future enjoying the fair. The Summer Fair raised £3836, including the raffle. The Summer Fair takes a lot of planning and organization— thank you to all the parents and staff who help in the lead up and on the day and to all of the families who come along and support the Fair each year.

Clothes Recycling

Thank you to all of you who continue to fill and return your blue bags with unwanted clothing, shoes and soft toys. This is a great way to raise funds as it costs absolutely nothing! Clothes Recycling will continue this year, so please look out for the blue bags your children bring home and return to the school gate by the specified date. Last year this raised £401.

Book Club

Children are able to visit Book Club (at both sites) on Friday lunchtimes. A wide range of books appropriate for all ages and abilities are on sale at very reasonable prices (from 70p — £2). Children can bring in the money for a book or can bring in a little at a time and save up for a book. Money should be brought in to school on a Friday morning in a named purse. We can reserve books for children to purchase at a later date. We rely on parent volunteers to run Book Club — if you would like to join the rota please get in touch.

World Book Night

This is a more low key, but very lovely event we hold at Wingfield. We organise story telling for the children (often with a children 's author) and wine and nibbles for parents. This year the guest author was Margaret Armand Smith.

School Discos

School discos continue to be a regular source of income for The Friends, as well as being great fun for the children (although very hot and noisy!) Last year 's discos raised a total of £1642. Please get in touch if you are able to help at discos— we organise 3 discos per year and they can only run if we have enough volunteers to safely run & supervise the event.

Christmas Events

This year 's Christmas Fair was the busiest ever, featuring Santa in his grotto, craft activities, stalls and a very special visit from a Super hero and a Princess. This year The Friends raised £2998 through the Christmas fair, Christmas Raffle, children 's Christmas card sales and refreshment sales at Christmas performances. Many thanks to all the families for supporting these activities and to all those who volunteer their time to help.

Sponsored Event 2015

This year's challenge was a sponsored skip. All the children put in a huge effort to get jumping over those ropes! Some children skipped with a single rope and others joined in the group skip. The Sponsored skip raised an amazing £1152. Help us to raise more whenever you donate, by ticking the Gift Aid box if you are a UK Taxpayer.



Community Day—Festival of Nations

This Year's visitors to the Community Day had an international experience as they travelled the world tasting different foods, trying crafts, watching dancing and entertainment from around the world. All visitors had their own passports which were stamped as they travelled the world!!

There was an array of world foods for people to try. Local schools were also involved in designing and decorating umbrellas and flags with influences from different countries. These were displayed in a colourful parade on the day.

The Community Day was made possible through an Awards for All Grant, with a donation from The Friends. Each year the Community Day is planned and supported through partnership with the school and The Friends. To view more fantastic photos from the day, please visit the website

www.festivalofnations2015.wordpress.com



Spring Celebration at Wingfield

This year 's Spring celebration was very well attended. Wingfield site is the perfect venue, the weather was beautiful and the atmosphere relaxed.

Activities included an inflatable obstacle course (which was popular with both children and volunteers!), hook a duck, bead threading, glitter tattoos and a small campfire where children could toast their own marshmallows.



Bead threading (above); whittling sticks to toast our own marshmallows around the camp fire (left); Active Trowbridge obstacle course (below)



Other Fundraising Events

This year The Friends were invited to run a refreshment stall at the Magna Carta celebrations in Trowbridge Park. Committee members and volunteers got into the spirit of it and some even dressed up! (see photo left)

Over the past few years The Friends have also ran a stall at The Apple Day in October.

Catering for both of these events this year has raised a total of £442 for The Friends. Thank you to all involved for their time and hard work.



Gardening & Grounds Report 2014-15

We have had another great year in The Mead gardens.

We have achieved Outstanding in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood competition as well as a number of Gold and Silver Gilt Certificates in the Trowbridge in Bloom Schools Competition. We took part in the Trowbridge in Bloom Open Gardens again and families came along to enjoy the garden and taste the produce.

Friends of the Mead volunteers continue to run gardening club which is a hugely popular club. All the seeds, plants, tools and other resources for the many garden areas are funded by the Friends and make a huge contribution to the school and experiences of the children.

In the Friends of the Mead Gardening Challenge the Owls class were judged to be the best entry with their Octopus themed container garden – congratulations to them all for their hard work and imagination. All the entries were fantastic – thank you to the staff and children for making it a fiercely fought competition this year.

We have continued to grow a range of fruit and vegetables this year with lots more produce being used in the school dinners as well as being tasted and cooked by the children. The polytunnel, fruit cage, and raised borders give us a range of growing areas. Children from every year group are given opportunities during the year to get involved in planting, watering and harvesting fruit and vegetables at both sites. We have continued with our hot composting project to enable us to make good use of the huge amount of fruit waste generated by the school every day! The Chickens at both sites are well loved by the children and we have had a number of new chickens this year.

We were so excited that we worked with year 6 to grow our own wheat to make flour and our own Mead Loaf! The children planted the wheat in March (when in year 5) and have moved on to Thresh, winnow and mill the grain and use in their own bread!

Maintenance and Refurbishment

The garden has been developing for the last 10 years and we are very proud of what we have created. The garden is well used by all the children and provides lots of learning opportunities in all areas of the curriculum as well as a great environment for play. However, our garden works very hard and this year we have begun to do some refurbishment of the different areas.

Volunteers from Siemens Rail came in during July to help us tidy up the pond area and the sensory garden which had become overgrown. We are putting down more gravel and planning replanting of this area.

We have continued to develop our Meadow this year and it has really flourished with lots of sunflowers and poppies – we hope you enjoyed it this year. It is a 4 year project and we hope next year will be even better! We had some fantastic help from volunteers from Cereal Partners in the spring to remove unwanted weeds and dig over areas that were tricky for the children to work on.

The wooden raised vegetable borders have begun to fall apart and we are planning to replace them all with new wood over the Autumn/Winter. The polytunnel is well used and enables us to garden with children all year round is being recovered in the Autumn which will give it a new lease of life and look more attractive!

We have our own twitter feed for the outdoor activities at school so you can see lots of pictures of what we have grown and the hard work that goes on @MeadOutside all year around.

Next year

As it is Olympic year we will be ensuring that the Olympic Gardens are in good shape, ready for our community day and other sporting celebrations as well as continuing to develop our vegetable and fruit gardens and other areas for everyone to enjoy.

Mel Jacob



How to Get Involved

We value and appreciate your thoughts, ideas and help — there are lots of ways to get involved:

- Join our email mailing list — you will receive updates on events, information on how to get involved and have the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas. Please send your email address to beckybih@sky.com
- Join our Facebook Group — Friends of the Mead School. Another great way to find out what 's going on and to share you ideas and thoughts.
- Check the Friends ' notice boards at the school gates
- Check for updates and our termly Newsletters via Parentmail
- Committee Meetings. There 's no need to be a committee member, just come along. Meetings are informal and friendly.
- Volunteer at one of our events — we always welcome any help, no matter how small. Just giving a little time can make a huge difference. There are lots of ways to help, depending on how much time you can offer. As well as helping at events, there are lots of other ways to help — baking for events, handing out class information, preparing for events, shopping for discos / events, designing and putting up signs and posters, helping at gardening days.

Why Volunteer?

I joined The Friends of The Mead when Chloe started in Sept 2009. Mel Jacob asked me if I would like to join The Friends as she was my college tutor 20 years ago!!! Previously I was on St Michaels pre-school committee for 3 years. I love volunteering as it is such a great way to make friends and offers an amazing social life - lots of fun events and working as a team. It is always lovely to see the children smiling and enjoying the events and makes it all worth while. I will have lots of fond memories to look back on with Chloe and her "fun" school years.

Tracy Ince



Please give us your feedback about events and items we have fund raised for. Your views are important to us and help us plan for the following year.
Please tick relevant boxes below and return to school office.

	Great	OK	Didn't Like	Other (see below)
Summer Fair				
Christmas fair				
Santa's Grotto				
Christmas Cards				
Discos				
Book Club				
Cake Sales				
Clothes Recy- cling				
Sponsored Event				
Music Garden				
Olympic Garden				
Adventure Island				
Veg & Fruit Gar- dens				
Gardening Club				
Chocolate Bingo				
Leavers Gifts				
Christmas & Summer Raffles				

Other Comments.....
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Joining the Friends Mailing List is an excellent way to find out about Friends events. Please write your email address below to join the Mailing List

Name..... Email.....