

# St Mary's PTFA AGM

## Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

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Present: Russell Blenkinsop, David Henderson, Mairi Murray, Andy Metcalfe, Natalie Blenkinsop, Jo-Anne Garrick, Lynne Shaw, Jackie Metcalfe, Louise Ramsey, Gareth Mitchell, Oliver Richards, Abi Samuel and Mr Fallon

### *Chairman's Report*

Russell summarised our achievements in the last school year and thanked all those who contributed to the committee and to the running of our events. A copy of Russell's report is attached below.

### *Treasures Report*

Our current funds stand at £8042.64. Approx £400 will have to be deducted in payment for the defibrillator which was purchased for the school. However £100 will be received from the charity North East Hearts with Goals. A picture opportunity for this donation will be arranged by Mairi once the date of the next star awards is agreed. David will provide a full report once a software glitch has been sorted.

### *New Committee*

The following people were nominated and appointed to the committee:

Chairperson -Russell Blenkinsop

Vice Chair -Andy Metcalfe

Treasurer -David Henderson

Vice-Treasurer - no nominations

Secretary - Mairi Murray

Vice-secretary - no nominations

General Committee members - Jackie Metcalfe, Natalie Blenkinsop, Lynne Shaw, Jo-Anne Garrick, Louise Ramsey, Gareth Mitchell, Oliver Richards, Abi Samuel, Kayleigh Lowe.

Mr Fallon will be the teacher representative on the committee this year. He reported that the schools next project will be development of the KS2 play area though this is at a very early stage. He will discuss with the teachers if they have any needs in the short term. The school were happy with all activities last year. It was agreed that the PTFA will continue to fund the school text service.

### *Halloween/Bonfire Disco*

Parent's night is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October therefore the provisional date for the disco will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 5.00-6.30pm. Mr Fallon will check this is suitable.

### *Christmas Fair*

This will be held in early December on 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. Date to be confirmed.

### *Next meeting*

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the church hall at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

## Friends of St Mary's PTFA

AGM Meeting 21/09/2016

### **Chair's Annual Report 2015 / 16**

I am delighted to present my first annual report as Chair of the Friends of St Marys PTFA and I would like to thank everybody for their support and encouragement during this time. Without this support the PTFA would not be able to host as many events and activities that have made this PTFA so successful. We have all worked extremely hard this year to achieve fantastic results for the benefits of our children and school.

The Friends of St Mary's PTFA was set up in 2012 to support St Mary's RC Primary School by raising additional funding to the school budget for items that will enhance the education experience of pupils and making learning fun.

Each year we have gone from strength to strength. This year has superseded anything imaginable by having a total income of £18,000 and after expenses raising over £14,000.

We started off the year with a fantastic Halloween disco where all the PTFA were in fancy dress which was very much appreciated by the staff and children resulting in a great night had by all.

In December we held our Christmas Fair, but prior to the fair a Giant Polar Bear made an appearance and caused a bit of a stir on Twitter. We raised in total over £1600 which is an amazing amount. There were some outstanding raffle prize donations, the first prize being a trip to Amsterdam for two donated by Hays Travel, Killingworth. This appeared to go down very well with parents as did the drinks hamper, as we sold a fantastic amount of tickets.

Special mention must go to Andy Metcalfe for his fantastic cracker game as well as being able to tap into the National Grid to support the lighting in Santa's Grotto.

Spring term was just as busy, February saw our annual Rose sale which is always popular with the children, however, due to unforeseen circumstances within the school we were unable to hold a Mother's Day event which did initially cause disappointment within the committee.

In March we held our first ever Casino Night (James Bond theme), this was attended by lots of parents who got in the spirit of things by dressing up in Tuxedo's and Evening dresses who then asked when the next event was. We raised over £1200 which for a first time event was brilliant.

Easter saw us host another disco which incorporated a St Patricks day theme but the most enjoyable event was the children's Easter Egg hunt which resulted in every child finding a full size chocolate egg.

Making sure that no child was excluded, enough eggs were purchased so that the children who were not at school that day still received their egg.

Summer term saw the children support England during Euro 2016 with the highlight of the tournament being Mr Fallon beat the drum.

We again held our summer fair and were blessed with the weather. Whilst it was a fantastic day, a horrible injury received by Poppy Dean whilst on the bouncy castle severely soured the overall feeling. However, in

true St Mary's fashion, the support that the Dean family received from the whole school is something that we should be proud of and I know they are extremely grateful.

A Beach Party fun night was held within the summer holidays, whilst this was a success and a fantastic night it was not as well attended as it could have been, this was due to all different reasons but mainly to people being on holiday or having other arrangements.

We also collected postage stamps and raised money through easyfundraising which saw us raise just under £1000. Easyfundraising is something we are hoping to continue to promote and use even more in the near future by hopefully getting local businesses to support us.

This was our first year as a registered charity, due to our charitable status we have been able to seek financial support by charitable donations, special mention's must go to Excel Northeast for their amazing cash donation / sponsorship of £5000 and Hays Travel, Killingworth for their cash, prize and holiday donations which value an approximate cost of £1500 and Forest Hall Chiropractic Clinic who donated £500 as well.

This success has meant that we have been able to donate towards many school projects this year, these include paying for the school messaging service which is a fantastic way of keeping parents informed regarding school information, also purchasing £500 worth of toys for the playground, leavers books for year 6 pupils as well as our Christmas and Easter gifts for the children, but our most high profile purchase was that of the school's first ever mini bus.

Head Teacher Mr Fallon said -

This acquisition provides us with unlimited opportunities to enhance the curriculum through being able to visit places of interest with greater ease, increase the number and frequency of educational visits and enjoy a sense of mobility at a fraction of the costs we currently endure.

It enables our sports teams to access a greater range of competitions across the authority and beyond and ultimately provides us with a flexibility we've not previously had. Many thanks to the team who put so much time and energy into supporting the school and the children. We have always enjoyed the support of parents through an active PTFA and long may this continue - exciting times ahead!

Although fundraising is a huge part of what the Friends of St. Mary's PTFA is about, it is also very much about enhancing the children's school life and bringing families, and the school community as a whole, closer together with our events and activities. This philosophy is the foundation for our association and we hope that this is evident in all that we do. I would like to thank every single person who has given up their time to do even the smallest of things such as buying tea/coffee whilst out shopping or blowing up what seemed like a million punch balls. We truly appreciate all that you've done and without you we wouldn't have achieved this.

Unfortunately Mr Bommel is no longer at St Marys for me to pass on my thanks for his support all through the year and what is our loss is undoubtedly Hazelwood's gain. However we look forward to working with our new teacher to make liaising with school a much easier task. Thank you for all of your help. Here's hoping next year is just as brilliant.

Thank you.