

Minutes of the Friends Meeting – Tuesday 8th May

Present – Rachel Brook, Sian German, Heather Rogers, Katy Woodrow, Claire Staple, Rachael Thomas, Suzanne Moore.

Apologies – Claire Weir, Fleur Heaney, Beth Moore, Alex Wallace, Kerry Tancock, Dee Lanning, Laura Cox, Laura Ferrett, Karen Spurdle, Claire Procter, Julian Piper, Nicola Herbert.

- **Duck Race**

We only had a brief overview of how each stall had done from Kerry, but in general it was felt that the duck sales went well considering we were unable to run the ducks with the weather, and overall we made a good profit (£1113+)

The sand sieving was very profitable this year, a big well done to Heather and Alex who organised and ran that, and the Cream Teas were successful, particularly in lieu of many cake donations. Everyone felt that the takeaway boxes for the cream teas were great and Suzanne should try to get these again for next year.

Feedback was that the coconut shy and Julian's pig racing were very popular. In future we could try and have more games, although the problem was always getting parents to take this on. Suzanne suggested we ask a parent if they could make up a wooden tombola or similar game over the summer that could be used for Christmas and Easter events, and would then only need a parent to run it each time with no organisation. Suzanne to ask on FB if anyone could do this. Heather also suggested that we ask the village fete organisers if we could borrow any of their games, she will ask around and let us know.

Next year, Easter Monday falls on the last day of the holidays. There is concern that many holiday makers will be returning home, and so less likely to attend. Fleur has reported that she is not happy to continue to collect the ducks from the pub at Litton on Easter Sunday. Many of us also felt that this is a big ask, and although in the past it worked well, it can only continue if we have someone with a big enough vehicle who is prepared to do this on Easter Sunday. Fleur had raised the possibility of moving the duck race to May prior to the meeting, but this is not possible due to clashes with the village fete. Possible solutions were to investigate other dates, or Suzanne and Sian had looked into the possibility of buying 150 ducks to add to the 350 donated by Audrey, and colouring them all, so that in future we would only need 500 ducks from the Rotary lock-up.

Suzanne and Sian to investigate cost of this, Rachel suggested asking Bernard Paull of the Rotary club for advice on where to purchase.

Everyone thought that it would be worth considering moving the Duck Race to the first weekend of the Easter Holidays next year, on the Saturday or Sunday when we get both people off work, and holiday makers. Rachel will approach the parish for initial permission, and Suzanne to ask the Wellman's if the Marquee and table would be available then. Can Fleur contact the Rotary club to see if the ducks are available that weekend?

- **Disco**

Suzanne has booked the Disco. We need to allocate parents for the night to supervise the disco in the hall, for the 2 quiet rooms and refreshments outside (plus supervising the alleyway), and to check in the children arriving.

Suzanne to allocate roles to every parent who offered help.

Suzanne and Sian to purchase the sweets, light sticks and wristbands. Katy and Rachel Thomas also offered to help make up sweet cones in advance.

Can Laura make up a flyer with return slip for tickets, priced at £3 to cover costs.

- **Sports Day**

The Friends are to provide water/squash and fruit for sports day.

Suzanne will buy the fruit, Heather will chop all the fruit ready into pots.

We discussed the fact the so many plastic cups are used. Given the cost of paper cups we felt it would be better to buy cheap re-useable cups that could be washed. Suzanne and Sian to purchase.

We would like to give all the children an ice pop at the end of sports day again. Suzanne is happy to purchase and freeze but will need to be stored locally during the event. Will ask if the Post office or pub are able to store these in their freezer for 2 hours on the day.

Suzanne and Sian to bring camping tables to serve fruit and drinks on, as Julien is away this year. Parents and Heather to rotate manning the table to enable people to watch our own children in their sports events.

- **End of Term Picnic**

To be a picnic only this year. Previously, although the BBQ was offered, no one used it and Rowan had to man them, so we won't offer this year. Laura to issue a poster in the last few weeks of term.

- **Future Events**

Hannah at the Three Horseshoes has offered to host another pub quiz on behalf of the Friends in the Autumn term. We were all thrilled at this offer and really look forward to another great evening (date to be advised)

We discussed a cake sale or Ice-pop Friday for the final half term of this year. There were concerns over competing with the post office for 'Friday treats', and it was felt that the tiny profit potential for sales wasn't worth this. A cake sale was also ruled out, as we all felt that the feeling at the gates was a bit flat, with very few volunteers coming forward. Far better to concentrate efforts on the disco.

A bingo night, beetle drive or treasure hunt are all being considered for next year, but need volunteers to come forward with ideas.

- **Spending needs**

We have had a successful term, raising over £1113 at the Duck Race, and £366 from Waitrose.

Claire reports that the school would like to purchase a new curriculum, "Cornerstone's Curriculum." Those with experience of this were extremely enthusiastic about how much this engages the children. The school needs £5000 to purchase this for September. It was unanimously agreed that we contribute as much as we possibly can to pay for this. An exact tally of funds is needed from Kerry, and it was agreed that the committee would agree the final sum. It may be that this leaves the kitty very empty, but we all felt that renewed efforts could be made to fundraise in September. It is also possible that funds of around £800 could be needed to repair the Trim Trail which is currently unusable for the children.

- **AOB**

Rachel reports that the Parish are progressing with plans for the new playground. A great deal of fundraising is needed, and the school Friends may get involved with this in future as many of the children benefit from this play area and the playing fields are used by the school.

Mrs Barratt currently administers the 100 club, so we need someone to take this over from the end of the month. Volunteers needed for this to continue.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, on Tuesday 18th September, 7pm at the School.