

Friends of Ferndale
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 20th September 2022

Welcome and thank you for attending this year's Annual General Meeting for Friends of Ferndale, the name it which we operate under the umbrella of the Parents Teachers Association to which we are all automaticity apart of when our children start school.

In the academic year of 2020-21 Friends of Ferndale was running with limited committee members due to the pandemic.

This year, I am proud of Friends of Ferndale who have worked so hard trying to raise vital funds coming out of this very difficult climate. The pandemic still remained a significant strain on our ability to operate in 2021 and therefore our Halloween Disco and Christmas Fayre was cancelled.

At the last AGM in October 2021, attendance numbers were low but it was nice to see some new faces. It was at this meeting, we invited Kath Brownlee to be our new Treasurer and myself, Jane Holden was elected as Secretary. There was no formal elected Chair so our previous Vice Chair Julie Ayres and myself picked up this role to ensure the continuation of Friends of Ferndale.

With a decade of volunteering behind her, Julie still continues to commit her time even though her son no longer attends our school. I wish to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of longstanding commitment, reliability and support. Well done Queen Julie 😊

It goes without saying that Sarah Provost also continues to be our main support thread, keeping us all together and that comes with endless enthusiasm to organise events. The committee are also grateful for the unseen work of the admin staff provide us as we interrupt them often during their busy working day. Thank you for coming onboard and supporting us, much appreciated.

It was full of joy when a decision was made by the school to hold their annual fireworks display in November 2021. This was the first time since the pandemic a school event had been held. With some anxiety at first on what we could and couldn't do, it was a great success. A captive audience for us to sell hotdogs, burgers, glow products and sweets. Over £1300 was handed over on the night so a massive thank you to all that was involved. I also thank parents/carers and members of the public who attended this event and made it a great success.

Even though Fireworks Night was very successful, a decision was made not to go ahead with our Christmas events but we still managed to organise a few festive traditions by selling the Santa Letters and introducing Chocolate Santa Hats through parentpay to sum of £250.

We brought in the New Year with a glimpse of hope that school events would resume...and they did. Our outdoor Disco was a well awaited event for our children and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Over £800 was raised and although a great amount, with careful planning, I am sure we could be reaching in excess of £1000.

Our attention then turned to our Summer Fayre. The rain stayed away and it was nice to have this event back. It is important for me to say that without the support of school staff for this event (inc Christmas Fayre) FofF cannot run with numerous stalls. Though the fayres are very successful events, getting parent volunteers is our hardest task. Parents want to enjoy the fayre with their children and rightly so.

For the next newly elected Friends of Ferndale perhaps pushing the opportunity having some parents to run stalls (with their children maybe) which they can share with other parents. This will give them time to enjoy the fayre but also be a part of the school and its fundraising efforts. Those staff and parents who do take part and give up their time to be involved really do make the difference, thank you.

Moving forward, we see the Friends of Ferndale may again be facing the same challenge – committee members and volunteers. We need to focus our attention on attracting volunteers from all year groups – especially since we hope that fundraising opportunities will be easier to come by. It is only now that our younger years parent/carers will experience a ‘normal’ school year of fundraising activities. It is for us, Friends of Ferndale, exciting times ahead as we get back into full flow organising our events and raise much needed funds to enhance our children’s learning and play.

I end in announcing that all members of the committee will now step down from their current roles and a wish of thanks expressed. Those now in attendance of this meeting will be given the opportunity shortly to be elected and stand on the Friends of Ferndale Committee.

Thank you

Jane Holden
Secretary /Chairperson