

**Friends of St Mary's AGM Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015**  
**Chairperson's Report**

Thank you to everyone for taking time to support this meeting to enable the AGM to go ahead. The purpose of this report is to confirm the actions taken by Friends of St Mary's over the last year. As this is my first year as Chairperson I was very unsure of what was needed to go into this report but looking back over last years Helen has helped me along the way nicely. This year has been a massive learning curve for me and I have tried to involve as many members old and new as possible, the reason I ran for Chair is to continue the support and fund raising back into school.

This year has seen lots of new members but also some of our oldest members leaving and still this has been a very successful year for FOSM, without everyone support not only members who attend regular meetings but those who donate in any way whether its time, raffle prizes or a cup of tea on the field before the fair, every penny we raise goes back in to school to benefit each of our children and with this commitment we are able to make memories that will last a lifetime.

### **Events**

The first part of the report is to outline some of events that have taken place over the last year. The Treasurers report will cover every event we have run and monies raised and how the monies have been spent.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass - To celebrate the Schools Anniversary we purchased Presentation Medals to present to each child this was a fantastic way to remember and celebrate the Schools Jubilee.

Coffee Morning Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - This is possibly the best Coffee morning had to date with the biggest cakes too baked by both members, parents and Grandparents, we signed up lots of new members on the day who are still with us.

Autumn Disco 17<sup>th</sup> October - Fun was had by all and it was so nice to see the new reception children have a lovely time, we had lots of help on the night enabling us to open up a classroom to encourage new helpers, refreshments were provided by Julie and her team and a small presentation letting other know what FOSM do in school.

Parents Evening 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November - As always we made a presence at the parents evening, trying to drum up more support and help for the Christmas Fair, the Christmas Stall was set up too, refreshments were served and donations made.

Reindeer's to School were a massive hit with the children provided at a cost to FOSM, York Farm came along with there furry friends and gave an educational talk along with time for questions and photographs with the children.

Christmas Fair Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December - The Fair was a massive success even though the temperatures were low to freezing with a decision by the group we take some of the stalls outside, the Bar was a success with me having to ask people to leave so we could clear up! Father Christmas aka Julies Dad was fantastic and has offered to come back this year as long as he has a new hat! Everyone pulled together before and during the event.

Cinema Nights 6<sup>th</sup> February & 8<sup>th</sup> May - This year we ran our first cinema night for KS1 only, this worked well for space and the children had a little more time to shop for Tuck and Pop corn as we

used both entrances to the hall to make registering the children quicker and easier, as always we offered a hot dog and drink within the ticket price and had help from members and Teaching staff KS2 Cinema Night ran almost the same offering the Older ones a Jumbo Hot Dog, as always the kids had a fun time and have requested film choices for the next one.

Summer Fair 4<sup>th</sup> July - This years Summer Fair theme was based on the Jubilee celebration which continued through school all year, after months of planning the Fair was by the most profitable event, with businesses donating amazing raffle prizes and peoples offer of help it all came together on the day despite a early morning pour down, the fair went into full swing with an RAF flyover and Songs from the 60's.

The last disco of the year was amazing for the children as the DJ was very Good and has been rebooked for this year already. A few changes have been made as to where we serve drinks and tuck from but all in all a fantastic end to the year and usual the kids had a ball!

As well as the above events we also participated in Bags 2 school twice through the year, Easter Card Designs and the Leeds 10k. We held a Mothers Day stall for children to purchase gifts and a Mums and Dads Stall near Christmas, the shopping for these were done by the lovely Sarah Dempsey to which I am very grateful as it takes the pressure off my role and even I get to receive a surprise. The Nativity Raffle always wows me as to how generous the donations and gifts are, Harvey Nichols is a definite winner and thank you to Louise Tindall for these donations. The Hampers as always from Reception are truly inspirational and this couldn't be done without the help of our parents and special thanks goes to Lisa & Gayle. We truly have a fantastic Choir Dionne you work so hard to pull all the children together and make beautiful music.

We are so luck lucky to have parents who can match fund our events which makes such a massive difference to our bank account and this would not be possible if the treasurer Matt did not pursue this.

### **How the funds were spent**

The funds spent will be reflected in the Treasurers report, but I can confidently say the money we raise goes directly back to the children of the school, whether it be coaches to the Pantomime at Christmas or funding Science week, the project we can see in the reception playground is a massive contribution back to school and our children.

### **Contributions**

When I ask the question "can you spare an hour" the people who say yes now avoid me in the playground, Only joking! The people who do offer and contribute are the people who made tonight possible and there are so many of you, so if I do miss anyone I apologise now.

The transition from the last years committee to this year has been a tad difficult with everyone been new and finding there feet, hopefully with things ironed out and a lot of extra meetings and organisation we will get there! Eventually, so here goes.

Firstly Helen, I had a hard act to follow and I have learnt so much from you in a leadership capacity and I thank you for the random texts and emails you reply to when I need you.

Matt what can I say, you might not like Christmas as much as me and Julie but your exceptional accuracy to the numbers are truly second to none and your always on hand any time, to be honest I do not think I could have choose a better Treasurer if it had been down to me and I believe this would not have been possible during your exams if it wasn't for the lovely Becky Cooling. To both of you thank you.

Unless we had Anne Marie to verify the account each year we would not be able to keep our charitable status and I know how much work goes in to this, thank you.

I really don't think this lady knew what she was letting herself in for when she turned up last year and stuck her hand up in the air, but Kath you have made some truly hard meetings and times very memorable for me and have come up trumps with some great Ideas and now we have a more formatted group the tasks your set I am sure we will work even better this year, thank you Kath for putting your hand up to be Vice Chair.

Miss Leonard I would like to thank you for your support and help over the past year, I might not be able to fund everything you ask for but I do try my best for your children and will continue to should I be voted in this year, thank you to all the teaching and support staff who play a vital role in school and who attend the events to help.

Now this man does run when he sees me coming, Mr Williams thank you for everything you do to help our events run smoothly, from opening up early to setting up the discos and helping me whenever I need you, oh and been my mate when I need a moan.

The lovely ladies in the office thank you for the hundreds of texts you send and all the printing you allow me to do I really do appreciate all you do to support FOSM.

To my tuck shop purchaser Bernie, you always over spend but are always there on hand to shop and help when you can, Thank you.

Thank you to last years vice Andrew, for still volunteering even though you said you were taking a back seat shopping and arranging the Flyover and Leeds 10k, think I owe you more than one pint now!

Geraldine is a lady who never forgets anything from previous years and I think this is down to her amazing spreadsheets and input of data for the inventory's we have kept, thank you for helping us through the transition and for the design and printing of various thing for events.

This brings me to the current Secretary Julie, who once said to me "if you do it I will" what she actually meant was if you stand for Chair I will for Secretary, over the year we have become very good friends and I would like to thank you for all you do not only the minutes you take and distribute or the inventories etc. but for the support you show me both in and out of meeting and always been there as my friend and fellow trustee.

As always thank you to all the parents, grandparents, members and staff and of course to the children, to end my report this year has been a year of ups and downs but still we have had a very sucessful one and look forward to hosting some fantastic events in the future with you all.