



Aldryngton School PTA
Minutes of the PTA Annual General Meeting
Thursday 26th September 2013

1. Present

Stephen Lea; Simon Feist; Claire Connell; Anna Neffendorf; Terri Gregory; Julia Franks; Kay Blackaby; Monika Mittal; Olga Jones; Laxmi Jalagam; Amanda Ellis; Anshum Tandon; Kajal Mathur; Sabine Bickle; Sarah Hanson; Tony Hanson; Philip Byrne; Marta Auijade; Mohima Bose

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted

3. Chair's report

Beginning on a personal note, the highlight of the PTA's year for me was without doubt the miniature steam train at the Summer Fayre – it had been a secret fantasy of mine to have one at the Fayre so I was delighted when Peter Kemm made this a reality! Peter is one of a number of long-standing PTA supporters whose children have now all left Aldryngton; it's good to see a new generation of Aldryngton parents coming forward to enable the PTA to continue in its vital role within the whole school community.

Both the Summer and Christmas Fayres were very successful this year financially and, I believe, as community events. Far too many people were involved in making these events work to list them all. Begging the forgiveness of those who go unmentioned but not unappreciated, I would like to thank Clare McDonald for organising Upper School into running their usual stalls and Avril Kiff as ever on the bottle tombola at both events, and, at the Summer Fayre, the penultimate appearance of the Mackenzie – Rackley combo running the bar. Many Aldryngton children and parents are members of the 84th Reading Scout Group and to the mutual benefit of their Group and the PTA they once again provided the BBQ at the Summer Fayre.

The PTA's third major event was of course the Try-a-Tri, in its third year bigger and better than ever before and for the first time running over two days and involving other local schools – from whom we have had excellent feedback. John Thompson, Kirsty Scott, Ronan Jamieson and their team put a tremendous amount of work over many months getting this to event to work – I wish them every success in putting the Try-a-Tri movement in Earley on a permanent footing with INCURRO.

School Discos and Class Cake Sales run throughout the year – the PTA owes a great debt of gratitude to Justine Bark who has run the discos and, together with Anna Neffendorf, the cake sales. Justine has also supported the PTA in many other ways including doing much of the shopping for events. She is now stepping down as Disco Coordinator; it's a measure of

the amount that she's been doing that on this one role alone she has to be replaced by a team of two! Thanks to Cathy Maskell and Helen Barnes for taking on this role.

Also busy bargain hunting throughout the year is our Wrap-a-Present Coordinator, Alice Peacock – although the event may only take place over four lunchtimes, there's an enormous amount of preparation behind the scenes. The same goes for the Christmas Card scheme that Rhona Phipps has organised for the third year running and the ongoing Second Hand Uniform scheme that Vicki Adams continues to run – both these provide valuable additional funds. Another steady earner, but one that takes next to no effort to organise, is Easyfundraising – generate donations from online retailers – and could raise much more if only more parents could be encouraged to use it.

The Pool Club season saw some splendid summer weather but also an unfortunate closure for nearly two weeks in August – be assured that procedures have been reviewed so that the root cause of the shutdown will not recur. Despite this interruption, I trust members enjoyed the Pool Club – numbers were as good as previous years and the new pricing and rota arrangements seemed to meet with approval. Thanks to Kirsty Scott as Pool Coordinator assisted by Ian and Liz Parsons.

Thanks also to the school office staff, Lyn Benham and Helen Durrant, for helping promote the PTA's activities through printing posters, sending out texts and emails, fielding questions... and to our site controller, George Bridge, for his enthusiasm and practical expertise, particularly with the pool and at Grounds Development working parties.

All these activities have enabled the PTA to fund a wide range of projects around the school, as detailed in the Treasurer's Report. The school uses PTA funds to enhance the curriculum, whether through the provision of additional classroom materials or through enhancements to the school's outdoor facilities. At the end of the month it may not always feel like it but we do live in an affluent area; a consequence of this is that Aldryngton attracts much less Pupil Premium funding than many other primary schools so the budget is tight and without your support through the PTA some things that perhaps we take for granted could not happen.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to work with my fellow committee officers. Simon Feist reports below on his activities as Vice-Chair, my best wishes to him as he steps up to take on the role of Chair. Anna Neffendorf and Claire Connell are to be congratulated on not only surviving their first year as Secretary and Treasurer but being willing to continue into the second of, I trust, several more. After two years as Chair and several years before that as Treasurer, I will now be stepping down and lying low, as my younger son is now in Year 6 – how the time has flown by!

4. Vice Chair's report

Last year was another successful one for the PTA. Due to the funds raised through our activities we have seen improvements across the school and thanks must go the strong contributions from a core of parent volunteers. There is still much to do however and it would be good to widen the parent helper base to further achieve our aims.

The Grounds Development team were able to complete the construction of the outdoor stage and the children performing at the opening ceremony perfectly showcased the idea behind its construction. Further works are intended for the future, most notably a large artificial turf surround for the stage to enable greater use throughout the year.

It was also enjoyable to host the third Try-a-Tri which on this occasion included pupils from the Earley Schools Cluster or local primary schools. All the children who took part raised funds for their respective PTAs and as an outreach project was a huge success. The thanks received from the invited school PTAs highlighted their appreciation of what can be achieved when working together.

The Summer and Winter Fayres were enjoyed by all those who attended and both were bigger and better than before. The weather was kind for the day of the Summer Fayre and the playground and field were full of stalls to be enjoyed by attendees. Many new activities were included this year and the steam train, bouncy castle and water bomb game were all very popular. The Winter Fayre was also enjoyed by all and the live music created the perfect atmosphere. Both continue to be major fundraising activities.

The range of activities overseen by parents continues to be strong. Whether it is discos, cake sales, pool club or 2nd hand sales all serve a purpose. There are also many volunteers who help can sometimes go unnoticed. Reading assistants donate their time to help pupils from all years, school trips would be impossible without mums and dads offering their help and the school grounds would not be improved without the efforts of those who attend working parties. It should not be forgotten that it is not just fund raising which makes the parent base strong, it is improving the school experience for all pupils which is the ultimate aim. Finally I would personally like to thank Stephen Lea for his outstanding contribution to the PTA. His years of service, dedication and leadership have benefited all pupils attending Aldryngton whether they realise it or not. Take a bow Mr Lea.

5. Treasurer's report

The PTA raises much needed money to enhance the school's environment and provide educational materials for our children. We aim to raise this money in ways which are fun and draw the community together!

Overall we've had a very successful fundraising year. There have been large events such as the Discos, Try-a-tri, Pool Club and Christmas/Summer Fayres which have raised thousands of pounds. There have also been smaller fundraising events such as the quiz night and individuals have raised money e.g. by running marathons. There is ongoing fundraising through the sale of second hand uniform and the Easyfundraising website.

Once again Cake Sales have been popular. Last year each class raised over £100 and the money was made available to the class teachers to be spent. This is shown as restricted income and expenditure in the accounts.

This year has seen the introduction of online giving using BT MyDonate which was used for Chris Rock's Fundraising, the Try-a-tri and for Swimming Lesson donations. This form of giving allows gift aid to be claimed much faster and also lessens the administrative burdens on the PTA.

As well as the hard work of parents and children we have also benefitted from Corporate Sponsorship from Whiteknights Estate Agents, British Triathlon and Martin & Pole. Vodafone have also match funded £1400 as 4 of their employees volunteered at the Summer Fayre. Unfortunately they appear to have paid this twice and thus the income and surplus for the year is inflated by £1400.

We ended the year with £24,000 in the bank to be spent on our children's education.

However once this is spent, it is gone! The challenge is therefore to replace this and raise

even more this year. Everyone can play their part – either by regular assistance or by one-off assistance. All ideas are welcome – either to improve regular fundraising events or to try new ones.

6. Motion: to adopt the proposed new constitution

The proposal was put to the meeting and was passed by all present

7. Election of Chair

At this stage the Chair of the meeting was passed to Mrs Gregory.

Election of Chair: Simon Feist was proposed by Olga Jones and seconded by Stephen Lea.

Appointed

8. Election of Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chair

Election of Treasurer: Claire Connell was proposed by Anna Neffendorf and seconded by Tony Hanson. **Appointed.**

Election of Secretary: Anna Neffendorf was proposed by Mohima Bose and seconded by Tony Hanson. **Appointed.**

Election of Vice-Chair: Philip Byrne was proposed by Anna Neffendorf and seconded by Amanda Ellis. **Appointed.**

9. Filling of other roles

Stephen Lea confirmed those willing to oversee the following activities:

Pool club	Kirsty Scott
Discos	Cathy Mascall and Helen Barnes
Wrap A Present	Alice Peacock
Second hand Uniforms	Vicki Adams
Christmas Cards	Rhona Phipps – with assistance please!
Grounds Development Team	Simon Feist ; Tony Hanson; Mohima Bose
Cake sales	Anna Neffendorf; Amanda Ellis; Laxmi Jalagam
Staff	Kay Blackaby, Julia Franks, Avril Kiff
Assistant treasurer	Monika Mittal
Communication	Sabine Bickle offered to help with electronic comms.

10. Proposed events for 2013-14

Events usually in the calendar include:

Discos – this term - Oct 24th; Christmas Fair; Wrap A Present; Tri-a-tri; Happy’s Circus

Suggestions made at the AGM:

Great Egg Race; Oscars night; events involving art and culture; parent dinners

11. AOB

- The meeting agreed that Alan Harland would again be appointed as our Independent Examiner.
- Simon Feist spoke about hoping to involve the wider community more with the school, including working parties on site to improve the building and getting more involved with the pre-school.

- Tony Hanson raised the possibility of the school working towards Eco School status and whether the PTA could assist with this in any way.

12. The date of the next PTA meeting

Thursday 17th October 2013 at 7.30pm in the staff room annex .