

**Lord Deramore's PTA
Annual General Meeting Sept 2011
Chair's Annual Report covering Sept 2010-2011**

1. Introduction

The previous AGM was held in January 2011, however to realign to the school year the AGM has reverted to a September date.

Following the last AGM and with the consent of Sheena Powley, the PTA have focussed fundraising efforts on sponsoring the forest walk project as part of the outdoor play provision. At a total cost of £5000, it has been a fantastic achievement for the PTA, members, helpers, pupils, parents and carers, and staff in contributing £4000 towards this. A big thank you to all.

We have held many large events this year, some of the smaller fundraisers have dropped off the list and generally all events have been well organised, well run and had good attendance from pupils, parents and carers.

We have also seen a reduction in outlay for some events through successful blagging (canvassing organisations for a contribution). This approach has also secured some valuable raffle prizes.

2. Main Events

The Great Bake-Off Oct 2010

This event caught everyone's imagination, inspiring a huge number of children – and staff – to enter the competition. The sale of the cakes raised a reasonable amount over a period of a couple of days, and it was a really fun event to hold.

Disco KS1 & KS2 Nov 2010

Always popular, relatively straightforward to organise, and a useful input to fundraising.

Christmas Fair Dec 2010

In spite of the disruption from snow, the Xmas fair was held, albeit in a reduced format and in the afternoon. This was only made possible by the army of volunteers and by the amazing support of the school community, who turned out in dreadful conditions. This indicates how important this event is to everyone. Mr Bradley was a wonderful Santa, coping with his make-shift Grotto. This year we tried a different company for Santa's presents, with mixed results. This will have to be carefully considered for 2011. The children's secret shop was not as easy or as successful as we had hoped. Refreshments sold were hot dogs along with the usual waffles, mince pies and mulled wine which proved popular with all. One main difference to previous years was that everything took part in or around the hall, without the need to set up in Year 2 or EY classrooms. This and the afternoon timing made setting up and clearing away seem much easier.

Art Exhibition March 2011

Culminating in a professional looking art exhibition, this event felt like a great bringing together of pupils, staff, and parents and carers. With a spring theme paintings were created in class, taken away by a company, framed and then exhibited. There was also a substantial raffle on the night with some great prizes acquired by the 'blagging' team. This event however created some debate within the parent community, firstly on pricing which led to a last minute reduction in price from £10 to £7.50 per painting, and secondly on the ethics of selling pupils paintings. Despite this, there was a good turnout most paintings were sold. The committee felt that this type of event should not be repeated for a few years.

International Evening May 2011

Not held for a few years, this evening was sold out and very successful. In a joint effort, the evening was Japanese themed and proceeds were split between the PTA and the Japanese Red Cross in support of the Tsunami appeal. The catering team worked very hard to provide food for everyone. We were treated to authentic drumming which 4 lucky pupils tried and all the audience joined in with.

Sports day June 2011

Graced by good weather, the gazebo was up and a selection of refreshments was welcomed and provided some income. Quantities of food and drink were about right leaving little waste.

HesFest June 2011

This was the impromptu finale to the school year, organised at very short notice, but proving really popular. A great time was had by all, thanks to the generosity of all the bands giving their time for free. Unusually, this was a non-bar event, which still worked really well, and hot dogs and tuck shop went down very well.

3. Fundraising activity

Christmas Cards

Again, every child in school designed their own Christmas card, and parents were given the opportunity to purchase packs, with a percentage of the profits going to the PTA. This is always popular with parents, and a good fundraiser.

Year 6 Leavers Mugs

Not a big fundraiser, but previously welcomed by pupils as a fond souvenir. This did not happen this year, possibly due to some issues within the Year 6 parents themselves. This could be driven on a yearly basis, depending on how pro-active the parents are.

Skyecycle

This still proves a useful way of recycling whilst making a little money for the PTA. Skyecycle have provided a reliable service. We aim for 2 sales each school year.

Yellow Moon Catalogue

We made use of a 20% cash back offer before Xmas, and placed one joint order to save parents having to pay for individual delivery. However, general feeling is that this is not a big fundraiser, and not used by many parents.

Tea towels

A Lord Deramore's tea towel with a self portrait of every pupil. Tea towels were sold at almost every event through the year. Although 200 were sold, our stock level of 300 meant that this venture returned a small profit.

Name Labels

Leaflets were given out to parents and new starters before the summer holidays. We will find out in due course how popular this proved.

Lolly Fridays

Sadly, due to a lack of volunteers, this did not happen this year.

Heslington Church Fete

This did not take place this year due to the departure of the Vicar.

Second Hand Uniform Sales

After 4 sales events (including the new starters evening), there was a surplus of uniform at the end of the school year, good homes were found for it all via Freecycle, thanks to Michelle. Logo uniform will be kept for future sales.

Recycling

This needs to be looked into, as the collection box remains in the lockup, and has not been used or checked for some time.

4. Committee, Members & Helpers

The committee currently comprises:

Tim Wright	Caretaker Chair
Ruth Stephens	Vice Chair & treasurer
Sarah Barson	Secretary

At the last AGM, the previous Chair, Vanessa Greenway stepped out of the formal title and Tim Wright took a caretaker position until this AGM. Vanessa has remained a very active member and font of knowledge throughout the year. Due to work commitments Tim has rarely been able to be in the playground at start and end of the school day, Ruth Stephens and Vanessa have continued to provide this visibility, and personally I thank them for this. Officers require formal election at this AGM.

The small committee with a few key members, has taken turns to organise events, and, while the committee feels frustrated that PTA meetings and event organisation is limited to

committee members plus a few, there is always a willing and welcome group of helpers at events. Thanks to Yoko, Akiko, Hike and Jo Wright for their organisation of the international evening and art exhibition respectively. We continue to have ownership of some fundraising activities by members, and this appears to work well.

Despite the numerous helpers, the committee would welcome more organisers to help spread the work load through the year.

We have held 4 formal PTA meets throughout the year, focussed on planning each term's events. The meeting in July meant we could approach the new school year with a plan in place.

It is felt that the year representatives are not fully utilised and not properly communicated to. Those continuing to be reps should be confirmed, along with new EY representatives and a more inclusive communication method created, at a minimum a calendar of events. Workings of the committee (how),

A presentation at the new starters evening and ongoing website update are aimed at encouraging participation and support.

5. Expenditure

Please refer to the financial summary for detail, but a summary would be:

- over the year we have raised £4400,
- there are regular commitments of spend such as the water cooler, NCPTA insurance and Riding Lights performance.
- A donation of £4000 to the forest walk project.

6. Summary

A busy but successful year for the PTA, a total raised of £4400 for the PTA and a significant contribution has been made to the construction of the forest walk. The PTA continues to 'Have fun, work together, raise money & support our school'.

Tim Wright
Caretaker Chair
September 22nd 2011

Skyecycle

Karen Freshwater organises.

Uniform sale - vanessa