



## **Friends of Brailes School (FOBS) Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 8.00pm online meeting**

Chair Report:

Welcome to the Chair report for the Friends of Brailes School AGM and thank you for joining the meeting tonight.

I would like to start by saying thank you to the rest of the committee team - Katy, Selina, James and Rachel for their support this year in their roles as Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Co opted member. Their support and knowledge has been invaluable in keeping FOBS going.

There have been lots of events small and large, that have taken place raising vital funds to support the school's curriculum.

Following a few years of COVID and COVID restrictions it was good to be able to hit the ground running this year. We have tried to run as many events as we can, whilst still being mindful of how much time and effort all of these activities take.

James in his report will tell you about the finances and money raised at events but its good to have the opportunity through my report to remind us of some of those events.

Let's start with the friendship benches – you may have noticed these in school. FOBS purchased the first bench to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee and we have bought another one just a few months ago to mark King Charles III coronation. School really needed these additional benches for students to stop, sit, share and make memories with their friends especially as the current wooden benches have been rotting away. Hopefully these new benches will last for many years, (they are under guarantee for 25 years) and by purchasing these we have put 2016 plastic milk bottles to good use!

'The School Lottery' which launched in October 2021 continues to bring a steady income into school for very little effort on our part. The lottery is a great way to support the school on a weekly basis.

FOBS receives 40% from every £1 (with the rest going to the prize pot) and so the challenge is to maintain current ticket numbers and recruit new supporters. In addition, thanks to some very generous entrants who have also donated their winnings, FOBS receives those too.

Our clothing bank which arrived on site in October 2021 and continues to be used – so many thanks to all of you who have had a sort out and donated your unwanted clothes, shoes and textiles and dropped this off. The bin gets emptied regularly (if its full, let us know and we can request additional collections). Once the bin is emptied money gets sent directly to FOBS.

With Brailes show returning, this also meant the return of the annual scarecrow trail. This year FOBS were asked to organise the planning and delivery of this and given that we are a beneficiary of the show, we were happy to help. The theme was 'Popstars' and it was lovely to see so many enter and it was also a really lovely walk around the village (or several walks – daily – in my family) to see such fantastic creation and imagination. The trail is happening again this year with the theme of Kings and Queens which seems very fitting giving how much the royal family has featured over the last year. Do follow the Brailes scarecrow trail Facebook page for updates and if you can visit Brailes show in August.

The second-hand uniform sales were really well received last year so this year we have continued to make these a regular feature of the school calendar. And it is hoped the new committee will continue to do so as this helps everyone out but also is really good thing to do from a sustainability point of view.

Bonfire night returned with a BANG after a two-year break following Covid. It's always a challenging event to put on due to the large number of helpers required to help with preparation in advance, for the actual event and well as being very weather dependent! Some of the decisions regarding bonfire have to be made as early as June-July time. This year it was greatly helped by the introduction of selling advance tickets on the PTA platform PTA events. This meant the security of knowing we had covered our costs before the event had taken place.

Using the 'e tickets' and scanning families in on the night certainly helped speed up entrance and keep track of numbers! There were a few issues regarding the amount of people we could allow on site due to licenses and the committee has looked into that in preparation for the future. With an event such this following the health and safety and insurance rules is imperative.

We enjoyed positive feedback from many of the families attending with hotdogs, drinks, glow toys being waved. The fireworks team did a fantastic job as did all the volunteers from school families and the village to bring it all together. The overwhelming feedback was that it was great that highlight of the village calendar was back.

Katy organised the wonderful tea towel sale where children drew a picture of themselves (and some drew the teachers) and these were all printed on the tea towels – it was a great success and a lovely memento of their school and they were great Christmas gifts.

We must also thank Mary from Glebe Farm Sunflowers for their support and help fundraising. You will have seen Mary and her lovely boys selling beautifully painted pumpkin stones and selling small pumpkins from their PYO field and donated the monies raised to FOBS. They also did the same with their gorgeous daffodils they had grown too.

Our ice cream sales always tend to do well (of course when the sun is shining selling these is very easy!)

Teas and mince pies too have gone down a treat at the nativity performances and so once again thank you for your support there.

We have held a couple of informal gatherings at the George giving us an opportunity to just have a drink and come up with fundraising ideas.

We also held a toy sale just before Christmas which in terms of donations we were overwhelmed as it filled the school hall. For those who attended, I think they managed to grab some great bargains! Unfortunately, we didn't have as much footfall at that event as we hoped but all donations were taken to the local charity shops so they still got to help out other charities.

The Easter raffle was back!! One of our biggest fundraisers and this year was no different! I managed to get in contact with Voneus the new broadband provider in the village and they kindly agreed to sponsor the top prize – a new Chromebook. A huge thanks to them and to all of our local business' who kindly donated prizes and to all of you: without you selling tickets to families and friends we couldn't have raised this amount of money!!! The raffle was drawn on the school playground and although a little windy it was a much warmer day than last year. Thanks to all of you who also help serve teas and coffees that day!

The start of the summer term, usually sees one of the biggest events of the year for FOBS and the village with the return of Brailes 3 Hills Walk. FOBS as one of the main beneficiaries traditionally organise the tea, coffee and cake in the village hall which thanks must go to Katy for organising this

side of things. Unfortunately, due to the weather the 3 Hills committee had to make the difficult decision to cancel this event. Such a shame to miss this much-loved normal village event but it was beyond their control!

FOBS has also continued to benefit from those of you who continue to use Easyfundraising, Amazon Smile (although this has ended – so perhaps a great opportunity to sign up with Easyfundraising!) We also must thank Warwickshire Christmas trees – simply by buying your Christmas tree from them and mentioning Brailes school they donate 10% of each tree sold to back to FOBS. These methods are free but can make such a difference to our fundraising. So thank you!!

It has also fair to say that it has been tough to run some of the planned activities such as the village garage sale and a school disco – we really wanted to do this but again logistic difficulties meant we couldn't this year.

There have been various reasons as to why that is the case but mostly is support! We need people to not just help out at events but take the lead in running events too but we totally understand that life is busier than ever and for which we are mindful of.

Although we have probably not ran as many activities as we initially planned, we still have been able to maintain our support for the school through classroom allowances of £10 per child per year for teachers to use as they see fit to enhance the curriculum as well as trip allowances of £12 per year per child which often is used to pay for coaches. Since September we subsidised and paid for lots of things which more details will follow in our report from our Treasurer but thing such as paying for the Wind in the Willows performance, buying Year 6 leavers atlas's, paying for mini medics for students (which is next week I think), purchasing Christmas card for hat making and some yummy Christmas treats too.

Fundraising efforts going forwards for next year will be to continue to raise money towards the new reading and phonic schemes and some very sturdy and strong gazebos. We are also trying to get funding for PA system to be used at some of our events and some musical recording equipment to enhance the teaching of both music and technology. As well as this we are researching getting new IPADS.

I end by reiterating my thanks to the committee but I also wanted on behalf of the committee to thank all of you – our members of FOBS for your support. Thanks also must go to all the year group reps for reaching out and communicating with all families sending them lots of messages and reminders of key events.

Mrs Child we would also like to thank you for allowing FOBS to run as many events as possible whilst maintaining the safety of her staff and students especially when events take place in the school play ground or in the school hall late in the evenings.

Finally, a huge thanks to all the staff who continue to inspire our children and teach them to be curious and brave. You are amazing and we thank you for your work all year.

I really do hope that we find new people to step forward to lead FOBS and we are looking forward to seeing the new events and ideas of the committee.

Therese

Chair