



### **Friends Newsletter January 2019**

Firstly a very happy new year to you all. We hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

We apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter to you, we've had a busy festive period and illnesses to contend with but now we're firing on all cylinders and ready to get cracking with this years schedule.

So our first major challenge as Chairwomen was to get our Christmas Fayre arranged and for it all to run as smoothly as possible.

The big day was Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December and we are very pleased that it was a great success. We had 7 external stalls all selling wonderful and unique gifts as well as our own fabulous stalls including one ran by Mr Hetherington and the year 4s.

We would like to thank the following people for their help before, during and after the event, without you the event wouldn't have been possible:

Kerri Barral, Helen Fleckney & Sue Cox  
Lynne Adkins  
Sophie & Laila Peck  
Emma & Alan Wadsworth  
Kat & Don Palmacci  
Samantha Hunter  
Kyra Stewart  
Marc Riley  
Maria Crowe  
Linsay Regan  
Louise Anderton  
Karen Browne

Lisa Guinness  
Anna & David Whitfield  
Alan, Karen & Lisa Tott  
Loraine Dilks  
Lisa Edwards  
Stephanie Newman  
Kathy Donald  
Paul & Mimi Rolfe  
Sue Abood  
Cleo Curl

It was great to see Miss McCarthy, Mr Macinnes and his family, Miss Granelli, Miss Dancer and other staff members at the Fayre, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We also had a flying visit from Three Counties Radio, who popped in as part of their "Treasure quest" show, which was a great form of advertising for us.

As some of you were aware, the grotto had seen better days and was very nearly not used this year. We felt it would be a shame not to use it anymore so, with some new screws and a handy chippy, we

were able to give it a new lease of life and get another year out of it. Father Christmas himself was very pleased.

We would also like to thank the following organisations for their generosity and donating to our raffle:

Conquest Oil	Flitwick Leisure Centre	Mk Dons
The Knife & Cleaver	Tesco	Snakes and Ladders
Kids World	TruFitness	360 Play MK
Luton Town Football Club	Centre Parcs	The Flying Horse
The Styling Room	Bedford Blues	Ellis Elite Beauty
Woburn Country Foods	Mimi Fitwear	Calmelia Designs
BeBlissful Beauty	Chaul End Farm	Avon
Madd Books	Elizabeths Creations	Captain Claireways
Sue Abood		

Thank you to all of those who donated prizes for our tombola and wine and water table. Both were a big success and our volunteers were kept very busy.

So without further ado, we are pleased to announce that after deducting expenses, we raised a brilliant **£1,400.00**. We have a very healthy bank balance of **£7,056.32**! Thank you to Alex for these figures and for all your help.

This is a great achievement and we thank you all for being a part of it.

**Some of the exciting events that could be coming this year are:**

Valentine's Day Bake sale  
Mother's Day Afternoon Tea & online gift shop  
Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet competition  
Summer BBQ  
Father's Day online gift shop  
Christmas Fayre

**Committee changes.**

Unfortunately, Lisa Guinness had to step down from her role as Chair but is still involved with the committee. We would like to thank Lisa for everything she has done and all the time she dedicated to the Friends. Also for all the help and advice Lisa has provided to ourselves, Donna and Nickie, it's greatly appreciated.

We would like to use this opportunity to formally introduce ourselves, for those we haven't had the chance to meet yet.

We were both involved in the committee as joint secretary when the position for chair came up. Neither of us have ever done anything like this before but felt it was a great chance to get to know other parents and be involved in fundraising events. We have taken the plunge and have become Joint Chair/Secretary.

Our Sons are both in Robins (reception) so we come with fresh eyes and open ears, ready for any ideas anyone can provide.

**Maths – Whizz**

The friends were approached by Miss McCarthy and Mr Macinnes, to see if it was possible we could fund the Maths – Whizz fee. It is a fantastic resource that is used both in school and at home and

something the school felt very passionately about. A Maths – Whizz specialist came into the school where he provided parents with a presentation, to show the benefits of this software. We gave both the committee and parents the opportunity to vote and ask any questions. The overall decision was that we would all love to continue the use of this software, so the cheque was signed and handed over to the school.

A big thank you to Linsay Regan who contacted – ***Helen Mudd, Hon Secretary to the Trustees, Houghton Conquest Charities*** – to ask if they were able to donate towards the fee. They very kindly donated £500 towards the Maths – Whizz fee to which we are hugely grateful.

**Next Friends meeting:**

Date: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: The Knife and Cleaver

We will be discussing other fundraising ideas, so if you have any ideas of other events we could do, please feel free to come along to the meeting. Alternatively, you can contact us via the email details below, or through our facebook page.

To keep up to date with the latest information and events, please see our notice boards at the school or join our Facebook page, ***Friends of Houghton Conquest Lower School.***

You are able to contact us via our email address: [admfohcls@gmail.com](mailto:admfohcls@gmail.com)

Kind regards,

*Nickie Dilks & Donna Richardson*

Joint Chairs and Secretaries of the Friends Of Houghton Conquest Lower School