



The Friends of St Mary's CoE (aided) School Chair's Report AGM September 2020

Overview of Events

Bike Ride & Family Fun Day

- A very successful joint event with LDI and LDSM led by Rebecca O'Shea with a strong team.
- Parents from both school communities cycled and gained sponsorship.
- At the finish there were stalls, food, drink and activities for families to enjoy whilst waiting to welcome riders at the finish line.
- Sponsorship provided by Humphrey & Brand.
- Money raised divided between LDI, LDSM and The Royal Marsden.
- The event was held in the September of the same calendar year as Happy Circus in the June, it was thought this was a big demand on the volunteers who organise both events. Also, it was difficult to get volunteers for the set up for the Family Fun Day events as so many of the usual volunteers were cycling. A significant number are needed in the morning to get the stalls ready.
- Rebecca O'Shea has created a 'How to' document for this event.
- Going forward it was thought better to alternative June's Happy Circus with an alternative big summer sponsored event.
- Equally important to have an event to welcome YR 3 families and new families joining the school in September.

Family Quiz Night – 11th October

- A new event led by Jo & Peter Munro.
- It was the first time holding a quiz for families.
- As well as the quiz there was a bar, hot dogs, burgers and snacks available.
- Tickets sold at £2.50/ticket.
- It was thought a good event to do again if volunteers can be found to create and host the quiz, it takes a bit more work to keep all the ages engaged!

Kids Cinema Night – 21st November 2019

- This was a great success enjoyed by the children and led by Sara Wilson.
- We showed Home Alone selected by the school children via a vote on several Christmassy movies that were suggested.
- Tickets were charged at £5/ticket which included a hotdog. Sara felt more should have been charged for the tickets. This is to be reviewed by the next committee if they choose to do this event.
- High quality sausages were used for the event from The Game Larder via a parent contact from the school helped provide them at cost price, it was suggested cheaper sausages for children only events.
- The film licence required for this last's a year, it was thought to create another cinema event later in the year either for kids or parents.

Humphrey & Brand Upper School Cake Sale – Planned for early December

- An excellent relationship continues with Humphrey and Brand, and they invited us to host a cake sale outside their premises in Surbiton with parent volunteers and children dressed in school uniform selling cakes, with LDSM teardrop banners as part of the stall.
- The event did not eventuate as it was agreed that too many events were happening in the Friend's calendar and it was thought more money could be raised by alternative events also happening at that time.
- Agreed a good event to do to raise the profile of LDSM within Surbiton.
- Times for best sales is 11am – 2pm but difficult to get volunteers at this time on a Saturday.
- Rebecca O'Shea has created a 'How to' document for this event.

Hinchley Wood Firework's night – 5th November 2019

- Event hosted and run by Hinchey Wood Primary School where tickets are sold by LDI and LDSM.
- Requires very little work from LDSM Friend's team as poster and purchasing of tickets all arranged by HW.
- The BBQ at the event used a token system for purchasing different items which looked like it worked more efficiently than how we have been doing it to date.

Christmas Jumpers – End of November

- Families invited to donate Christmas jumpers to be re-sold as their children grew out of them.
- Jumpers collected over a week in the mornings and afternoons and then sold after school over a couple of days.
- There was a small amount of donations, parents that did buy them were grateful for the opportunity to do so.

Long Ditton's Light Up – 5th December

- Annual community event outside Manny's to celebrate the tree being lit up.
- St Mary's have a couple of free stalls
- In 2019 LDI & LDSM invited to host stalls. LDSM held a chocolate tombola which was VERY successful.
- Money from this event split three ways between LDI, LDSM and St Mary's Church.
- Children in the community invited to put in entries for Christmas Tree decorations, H&B provided 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for the winners. There were less entries than anticipated.

Christmas Book Donations – ongoing during December

- Families given the opportunity to donate books for the school, selected from a school approved reading list for Lower School and Upper School and given the opportunity to insert a book stamp to identify who has donated the book.
- Books collected and displayed under the school Christmas Tree in the hall.
- The Friends discussed more environmentally friendly ways of running this event avoiding wrapping paper.
- It was suggested to have a bookstore, e.g. Regency Book, purchase books from there have them delivered in one delivery.

Waitrose Bag Packing – 15th December 2019

- New event, children (with parents) volunteer to pack shopping bag for Waitrose customers dressed in their school uniform, with a donation bucket for customers to donate.
- Via the School Council the children voted which charity to jointly raise money with. The children chose The Joel Project which supports homelessness in the Kingston area.
- A pair of children per till for packing with an adult overseeing a couple of tills, 15 till available to man for about 4hrs each.
- Time slot is allocated by Waitrose.
- It was difficult to get enough volunteers to man all the tills available.
- This event has the potential to raise a lot of money if till can be manned.

YR 3 Christmas Production Bar - December

- A bar is provided and run by the Friends on the two nights of the YR3 Christmas production.
- H&B donated two generous hampers, each raffled on each of the nights.

Adult Quiz – 6th February 2020

- A standard event in the calendar led by Gabi & Hans Stiles, another successful event.
- Event for parents only, quiz, bar and snacks provided by The Friends. Teams invited to bring their own nibbles.

Let's Glow Crazy Disco – 27th February 2020

- Regular event in the calendar but with a new Glow Theme, event led by Jo Munro.
- Usually one of the parents, that DJ provides the music but was unable this time round so we had to pay £150 for DJ.
- Disco for the whole school for 90 minutes in the evening.
- Provided juice and a packer of crisp and glow in the dark face painting. Children invited to wear glow in the dark clothing with black lighting provided by DJ.
- Tickets £5/ticket.
- Children enjoy the event but needs more structure with games or similar as towards the end kids just floating around a bit lost.
- Quite a large number of volunteers required due to the high numbers that attend.

Ground Force – date TBC

- This was the second attempt to hold a Ground Force Day as there had been little uptake from volunteers in the October.
- We managed to build new flower beds, remove existing cladding from walks and paint.
- A creche was not offered for children as children are older than at LDI.

Back To The 80's Ball – 7th March 2020

- The most successful event of the calendar and lots of fun!
- Joint event between LDI & LDSM
- 80's themed disco held at the newly refurbished Crown Plaza hotel.
- Ticket price £55/ticket for Black tie event drink on arrival, three course meal, disco, games and Mum's Dance.
- As reviewed by the ball committee the only way to make money is to have a three course black tie event rather than an event with a cheaper ticket for canapés, drinks and a disco only.

Year 6 Leaver's Events – July 2020

- This was led by Gabi and a team of YR 6 Mum's, which is usually the case.
- YR 6 were given Leaver's hoodies, a leaver's book and a last week of fun including bouncy activities, a fun sports day, movie day, art and drama activities and some nice snacks and drinks, including an ice cream van.
- Usually The Friends pay for YR 6 to go to The Spectrum in Guildford after the service at Guildford Cathedral but that didn't happen this year.

Planned events unable to take place due to Covid-19

- Humphrey & Brand Upper School Cake Sale
- Mad March Hair Day – Children come in school uniform but create crazy hairstyles and pay a £1 for doing so.
- Chocolate Bingo – A standard event in the calendar and a particular favourite of the children.
- Family Summer Event – Details had yet to be confirmed, a sports theme Colour Run was considered.
- Long Ditton Village Fair – This could not happen as the current Long Ditton Village Committee have all stepped down and new members are required. If the committee can continue they would like to refresh the event to make it more like a 'Party In The Park'.

New Ideas adopted in 2019/20

- Sign Up Genie
- SumUp
- New email account ldsmfriends@gmail.com
- Elmbridge Lottery

Jo Munro, Chair, 16 September 2020