

Friends of St. Oswald's Meeting

January 31, 2011

Present: Ben Westwood, Claire Wright, Karen Barrie, Elaine Scott, Leslie Palanker-Jermyn, Heather Monro, Joanne Hughes, Gill Harrison, Pippa Coffey, Rachel Pears, Louise Gregory, Vicky Aymard, Maggie Morton

- 1) Apologies- Cheryl and Julie. Clare to arrive late.
- 2) Minutes of last meeting circulated and accepted by all.
- 3) Leslie resigned her position as chair, her key was passed to Mrs. Harrison. As tonight's meeting was well attended and a Treasurer's report could be sent out with minutes, all in attendance agreed that it could be seen as an AGM and we could appoint a new Chair, if someone was willing. At the end of the year, we will need to replace our Treasurer, as Rachel Butcher will be leaving St. Oswald's (Clare will then be able to audit our Friend's books).

Joanne Hughes agreed to stand for position of chair and Vicky seconded this. She has been duly elected as our new Chair and Leslie has passed over all information to her. It would help our future Treasurer to shadow Clare, if someone is interested.

- 4) Uniforms: Julie has set up the website to favourable reviews and needs only to amend it slightly to include the information that no one is obligated to buy branded uniforms and also the information that the Friends will take a small percentage of the cost to raise funds. This percentage has decreased as we move to website based purchase in recognition of the fact that they do less in providing uniforms now and to keep the prices as low as possible now that a packing and postage fee might apply to smaller orders. The Friends will continue to sell book bags and gym bags.

At future open nights, there will be samples and it will be possible to set up a computer with the website up for orders.

Orders can be delivered to the school if this is easier for parents (as long as they are labelled by the company).

In the future, it might prove easier to use the same website as other schools (like St. Margaret's) which might help parents make up a full order.

The website should be live in a number of weeks.

This information will go out to all parents by newsletter (to be sorted by Maggie and Joanne).

- 5) Wine and Cheese- The Browns have once again offered their home as the venue for the Friends to hold a Wine and Cheese fundraiser for the school. This will happen Friday March 2, 2012 and tickets will be available from Rachel or school for £5 each. Parents and friends are welcome! This event will be publicised in a newsletter to go home to the parents (Maggie and Joanne to sort this).

6) Meeting dates preference- the next meeting will be held on a Monday as Tuesdays and Thursdays are each problematic for some friends. (Monday March 26, 2011 at the Duke of Wellington)

7) A.O.B

Any School Needs?

The school's reading books have been getting scrappy and there is currently a government scheme to match funding for books. If the Friends were to help invest in a graded phonics reading scheme this would be desirable. It would also balance out the investment in technology the Friends have made by purchasing notebooks.

Friends have suggested that visitors are always enjoyable. Zoolab and the Oriental Museum have visited recently. The Sage has been suggested, as well as activities around an Olympic theme. Heather Monro has good sports contacts as well as with the Youth Sports Trust and will approach Mr. Handy about this. The school will seek out feedback about whether Jubilee celebrations of some sort would also be desirable.

The park's roundabout could use some attention and Mrs. Harrison stated that Peter Kaoshouris is the appropriate person to raise this with.

The school grounds are struggling with tree roots that are destroying areas of grass and the trim trail. School are looking into repairing this.

Other Fundraisers?

We already have a non uniform day March 1st for World Book Day. Another non-uniform day could take place next term.

An Easter hat competition could take place. March 19th was suggested for this. The children will pay £1 to enter a hat and a parade will be held through school in the hats. One winner will be selected per class.

The Botanical Gardens was once the setting for a fundraiser and this will be discussed with Mike Hughes by Mrs. Harrison.

Juice in the Park was popular and will be discussed again for next term.

Facebook was suggested as a platform to discuss Friends information. Heather will look into setting up a group.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY MARCH 26, 2012, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 7:30pm