

**Friends of Derry Hill School (FoDHS) Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 9am**

Meeting opened at 9.20am

**Committee members present:** Lauren Orchard (Co-Chair) Sarah-Louise Jackson (Co-Chair) Emma Manning (Treasurer) Rachel Ashley, Zoe Armstrong, Georgina Trewartha, Trudy Snow, Polly Harwood, Luce Clayton, Katie Williams, Ffion Lewelyn.

**Apologies:** Susan Retter, Chris Stratton, Clare Young

**Attendees:** 35 comprised of parents, grandparents and staff.

**Meeting opening:** Lauren Orchard opened the meeting, thanked everyone for their attendance and their support during the last 12 months.

**Co-Chair's report:** Co-Chair's report was written by Sarah-Louise Jackson and Lauren Orchard and read by Sarah-Louise Jackson. Please find attached.

**Treasurers report:** Treasurers report was written and read by Emma Manning. Please find attached.

**Committee elections:** No committee elections required or carried out.

**Any other business:** Anne Geeny volunteered to write the FoDHS insert for the village magazine 'Inspire'

Naomi Olnor and Maggie Meintjes volunteered to join the committee

Ffion Llewelyn has offered to help with marketing and posters

Meeting closed at 10:00am

**Co-Chair Speech**

I am not sure that either Lauren or I can believe that it has been a year since we sat in this hall trying to discover what friends of Derry Hill School was and what they do, as ourselves and children had not had much involvement with friends due to restrictions brought in by the Covid Pandemic. I think that we both left that day not quite certain of what had really happened. One thing we were both certain of and continue to be is that we both want FODHS to continue and after a tough couple of years FODHS had come dangerously close to folding. The two things we would like you to take away from this opening speech is you do not need to know who we are to join us, you just need to care about our school community and you will learn and gain confidence on the way and yes without you and our community FODHS will disappear. FODHS is not just a committee it is a community.

We would like to say thank-you to everyone who has supported us during this past year especially Tash Lee-Jones and Amanda Gavin- Taylor our previous Co-chairs who supported us during the transition to becoming the new Co-Chairs and still continue to offer advice. Thank-you to those of you who remember what FODHS used to be and help us to keep the essence including Claire Young. We have learnt a lot and continue to do so but we could not do this without everyone around us so we stand here and say Thank-you.

For those of you that are here to learn more about who we are, the of purpose of FODHS is to make the school a better place for children to learn. We raise funds to strengthen the

school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover; so putting this very simply this year we have strengthened our school community by working together to enhance our children's school experience by giving our Children the opportunity to really invest in the monumental event of the Queens Jubilee by make a memorabile plate. We have helped made it possible for our children to visit the Pantomine by funding the coaches. Our Year 6 leavers now receive a leavers book and now in addition to this previous tradition £10 towards there leavers hoodies as this is an amount we can continue to support to allow all students to have these mementos as they move onto their next schools. Emma will also highlight the other funding support in her account summary.

Why are we FODHS and not a PTA . This is because we are more inclusive, you do not need to be a parent or teacher to be involved. Currently the core committee is made up by parents and teaching staff. Please help us by remembering and sharing when you leave today that anyone who cares about our children having a better experience whilst here at Derry Hill School is welcome to join our committee this includes you, grandparents, friends and yes you the fathers. The more diversity that we see on our committee the more we can support our special community. Inevitably as the current Year 6 children move onto the next stage of their education, we lose some experienced members and volunteers. It is important that we are able to pass on this knowledge and we are very proud to say that we have had some new Dormouse parents join our committee. These new members are vital as it enables us to continue our work and we continue to welcome new members and helpers.

The 2021/2022 academic year has allowed us to start returning to a more traditional fundraising year. We have taken learnings from how we fundraised both before and during the pandemic and have used this to make our events reach more people. This year we have had to cancel and alter some of our events but we are moving past this and finding much less restrictions in our way. Despite nearly having to cancel the 2021 School Christmas Bonanza it was moved outside to ensure that we protected our community. It was the first year that it had been held outside and despite several learnings we had very positive reviews. We are going to continue with this new tradition of holding our annual Christmas Bonanza outside this year on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We held 2 bags for School events last year which successfully raised us over £200 we have booked 2 more bags2school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. We have moved away from the 100 lotto as this was very successful during the pandemic but it did not receive the uptake needed post Covid. We have recently registered with Gift Aid and looking to implement this more within our fundraising. We have held several pre loved uniform sales at cake bakes and new parents evenings. Thank-you to Chris Stratton for taking the time to organise and store all of the uniform and ensuring this is still available to help families. As this was not a huge fundraising activity we moved this across to a marketplace option but we have decided to take this back to a more traditional approach. We are looking for a coordinator so if you would be able to offer us this support please speak to us. Year 6s lead the first post pandemic cake bake and these continue to be popular with the children and a good fundraising source. We have also held some children focused activities including our annual Easter Egg hunt which we would like to say a huge thankyou to Georgina Threwatha and Rachel Ashley that led this activity which was enjoyed by all the children and thank-you to Zoe Armstrong for resourcing all the Easter eggs and getting a donation of Easter Eggs from Tesco. The School Disco returned, thank-you to all of the teachers who came along and made this a very successful school

community event, the parents who came along to support your children and Year 6s who came to give the younger children the confidence to dance by showing them the dance moves. There was lots of dancing from all ages. We also had our first Adult focussed event with our Quiz and we would like to say thank-you to Emma Manning for taking the lead on this event and Tash Lee-Jones for being an amazing Quizmaster.

Last year we did have to reduce the number and size of the events we held as despite having a healthy committee we really do need your support as we also continue to juggle our commitments. This year as you can see we have already started to put plans together for events to hold during this year but this will continue to be reduced unless we have enough volunteers to safely and successfully run them. If you have a suggestion of events or what you would like to see us raise money for, please come and speak to us, email us, message us on our Facebook page or leave a letter in reception. We are just ordinary people like you that are trying to help our children. We have experimented with different ways to communicate our events. Moving forward we will advertise in the school newsletter and on the friends of Derry Hill Facebook page so we really do encourage you to join this and ask our community to join this as we will only be successful with your support. We are aiming to give you as much notice to these events as we can so you have the opportunity to participate.

This year our core activities will continue to provide what we have done in previous years but starting in the New Year we would like to focus our fundraising activities to improve and increase our school library resources. If you are able to take lead on an activity such as a quiz night, bingo night or something completely new like Zoe Armstrong who has set up a Wreath making workshop please come and share your plans with us.

We would like to leave you with this final thought before we leave today which was inspired by a message we received as we were writing this speech. Elijah from year 5 and his Grandad have been growing vegetables and selling them to raise money for FODHS. Over the past 2 years have raised a whopping £285 which is no small feat. We would like to say thank-you because not only have you raised a significant amount of money you have shown that there is always a way to support our charity FODHS. I ask you to remember when you leave this hall and share with those close to you that there is always a way for you to support our school community. It does not have to be at the standard event, it can be offering to write our monthly newsletter for the village magazine, designing posters for our events or simply by spending time with your family and friends doing the things you love like Elijah and his grandad has shown.

Thank-you for your continued support and here's to a successful 2022/2023

### **Treasurers report 2022**

We had a really positive year back after the COVID lockdowns which enabled us to carry out fundraising events and it was great to see everyone enjoying them.

Our first big event was the Christmas Bonanza along with the raffle and this helped us raise over £2200.

Cake bakes and lolly sales were back and raised us £700, thank you to all those that baked cakes and helped on the stalls.

The school disco was great fun and again lovely to be back in school doing events, this raised £155.

The fete proves popular, and in these accounts we have 2 events as the 2021 fete was postponed to September, both events raised £400 each

We also ran the Jubilee cream teas raising £300, our total of fundraising with events was £4886.

We also receive funds from easyfundraising, Amazon smile, bags to school and stitkins and these came to £555, if you don't use easyfundraising or Amazon smile please do think about it as they are effort free ways to help us raise funds.

We funded the Jubilee plates and also the leavers hoodies so after these expenses we had a profit of £4414, with funds brought forward we ended the year with £6651 of which £3000 has already been allocated and paid to the school for the current academic year.