

**Friends Of Handsworth AGM Zoom call**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Agenda:**

- 1)** Welcome
- 2)** Chair's AGM report
- 3)** Communication, help and ongoing support
- 4)** Financial report – Treasurer
- 5)** Appointment of new FOH Committee
- 6)** Coming up in 2021/22

**1. Welcome**

Thank you so much for coming this morning. We appreciate how busy you all are and the amount of juggling 2021 has required. We hope you are ready to hear what we've achieved to support our school during the last academic year.

My name is Max Ferreira, and I am the current chair of Friends of Handsworth (FOH). Last year's Committee consisted of:

- Anna Sabit as Vice-Chair
- Laura Stewart as Secretary
- Gwendoline Meyrick as Treasurer
- Katherine Buckee, Victoria Johnstone, Valeria Miglioli and Scott Rance as Trustees.

At the beginning of an academic year, FOH is obliged to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM follows a slightly more formal format to our usual FOH meetings. This morning we must do the following to comply with obligations of being a charitable trust.

- a) The Treasurer and I will provide our reports of FOH's achievements in 2020-21 for records.
- b) We'll talk about events for the year ahead and get some great new ideas to raise funds.
- c) Lastly, we need elect new committee members for the coming year.

Firstly, I'd like to talk a bit about why we need FOH. Here at Handsworth Primary School, we are lucky to have some great resources but due to the relatively wealthy catchment area we are in, the school does not receive a lot of additional resources from the government. Therefore, it is vital that we have FOH to support the school's endeavours and to raise money for additional things that we would like our children to have access to.

FOH is a charity and exists for two reasons:

1. To raise money to provide additional resources to the children and users of the school & support the teachers and governors in giving our children the best possible experiences here at Handsworth Primary School.
2. To run events that give great experiences to the children, family, parents & friends of the school.

When a child starts at this school their parents/carers automatically become part of FOH. We are keen for as many parents as possible to get involved, as little or as much as they can, and frankly speaking, without the unending support we receive from parents we could not achieve much at all.

FOH meetings are held once every half term, normally in the evening. An agenda is set, and we try to keep the meeting as short as possible. We talk about events for the year, share ideas for fundraising, and as the school usually has several projects to support each year, FOH helps decide how to spend the money raised. We generally do not specify that events are specifically for one project because we are legally obliged to spend

100% of funds raised at that event on that specific project, but we will talk about the intent for the use of the money.

Over the last few years, FOH has raised money for library books, classroom furniture, playground equipment, year 6's leavers gifts, science week, ICT equipment, guided reading, Shaking up Shakespeare, storytellers, poetry week, maths week to name a few.

We work hard to keep everyone informed of all the goings on through the FOH Facebook group, Class Reps, WhatsApp groups and school emails. On our Facebook page, we post the dates and times of forthcoming events, and we use the page for shout-outs and reminders. Please make sure you have joined the page to keep up to date with what's happening.

## 2. Chair's AGM report

2020/21 was my second year as Chair, helped enormously by committed lead organisers of events, and a supportive Executive Committee! I will take you through the numbers but suffice to say it was a challenging year on account of Covid-19 restrictions and the constant change of date for large fundraising events.

FOH held a number of events last year:

- In October the **Virtual Balloon Race** was our first event to kick start our new life in the Covid-19 era. It was a successful first virtual event and we managed to raise much needed funds.
- We hosted our annual **Quiz Night** at the end of November, again virtually. Scott and Gwen did a fantastic job running the night so smoothly. We had great feedback from all participants, and we are now very much looking forward to this year's Quiz at the school hall on 10<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Virtual Santa Claus** visit, just before the Christmas break was very popular and on top of it, we decided to offer every pupil a chance to watch an online pantomime, Cinderella, from Colchester Theatre. It was a simple way for FOH to say thank you to all the support we received from the children, parents, and carers especially during the pandemic.
- Unfortunately, we could not run our traditional school disco as we were still under Covid-19 restrictions, but we were able to run a Covid-safe event **pizza evening** in May which was a delicious way to raise further funds for the school.
- **Krispy Kreme** sales are now becoming a Handsworth staple at every end of term. It is a simple and very effective event.
- We held our first **Summer Picnic** on the field at Highams Park Secondary School in July. Things didn't go according to plan, but we managed to enjoy a decent, warm day with many saying they loved the space and felt we should consider doing it that way in the future. Unfortunately, we had to change the date three times which impacted the number of families able to attend. Despite the challenges, we did raise a considerable amount of money and now have a better understanding of how to hold our picnic at the field. We were also very fortunate that a parent signed FOH as her main charity at her company's matching fund scheme, and we were granted over £2,000 in extra funds - thank you!

## 3. Communication, help and ongoing support

We rely on Class Reps to share FOH information so that year groups are informed and involved in our events. We really appreciate the efforts of the Class Reps and hope that you will have nominated your Reps already (or will do soon!). Please let us know who they are!

We'd like to thank the teachers and school staff who work so hard to support FOH on top of everything else that they do, particularly Mrs Nairne for keeping the FOH focussed, Mary, Carol, Rosie and Michelle in the Office who do lots behind the scenes, and of course Dale for being such an amazing caretaker and helping us run our events at the school - we could not do it without you all.

And finally, thanks to all of you, those FOH members who keep up the momentum. You show great commitment to the school, not only coming up with great ideas but most importantly having the drive to turn

them into reality. It is all worth it when our children come home so excited and talking about a particular project you have helped to raise funds for - it is all for them!

#### **4. Financial report – Treasurer**

Our latest financial report will be available on the school website, on the FOH page.

#### **5. Appointment of new FOH Committee**

At the AGM, the current FOH Committee stands down and we elect a new FOH Committee to represent the association throughout the forthcoming academic year. FOH Constitution requires the following to form the Committee: Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees x 2 to 4.

Nominations received for Chair: Max Ferreira staying

- Voted in (Yes)
- Position filled

Nominations received for Vice-Chair: Anees Samboaya

- Voted in (Yes)
- Position filled

Nominations received for Treasurer: Gwendoline Meyrick staying

- Voted in (YES)
- Position filled

Nominations received for Secretary: Laura Stewart staying

- Voted in (YES)
- Position filled

Nominations for Trustee: Katherine Buckee staying

- Voted in (Yes)

Nominations for Trustee Victoria Johnstone staying

- Voted in (Yes)

Nominations for Trustee Scott Rance staying

- Voted in (Yes)

Nominations for Trustee Valeria Miglioli staying

- Voted in (Yes)

Thank you everyone. For all of you that agreed to be nominated, for you coming today and participating in the election of our new Committee for 2021/22, and thanks in advance for your continued support in improving the school for our children.

#### **6. Coming up in 2021/22**

There are already a number of events in the diary for this academic year! For the bigger events like the Summer Picnic, Yard Sale, Comedy Night, Quiz Night, and the Christmas Fayre, we have found it works well to have a lead organiser to bring these events to fruition. But this doesn't mean one person runs it all! Everyone is invited to get involved, have your say and do your bit. If you can't get to a meeting to put yourself forward, please do speak to the lead organisers or to anyone on the FOH Committee and we can make sure everyone feels part of our FOH family! Here's what is coming up:

- **School playgrounds:** I believe we would all agree that the equipment in our school playground is looking tired and some of it has even been removed due to safety concerns. KS1 playground is due a

revamp and this is included on the school scheme. The playground in the KS2 area (years 6, 5 and 4) has been taken away. Mary has worked tirelessly to apply to all sorts of funding schemes in the last two and half years and the school has managed to receive a considerable amount of funding via the Local Authority for the supply and installation of two pieces of equipment. Unfortunately, the school is still £40,000 short for what they are hoping to deliver for our children. FOH will be working with the school to start a fundraising campaign via 'GoFundMe' or 'PayPal' pool to raise the extra amount needed. This will be a mammoth undertaking and we will require as many of you as possible to help us achieve the school vision. If you have any contacts that may be able to help/donate, please get in touch, and keep an eye open for further details coming soon.

**Things already in the diary:**

- **Christmas Cards** have arrived, and they should be given to the children in the next few weeks. Parents should receive a leaflet with information about how to purchase cards online.
- Our first **Comedy Night** is on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, doors open from 6:30pm. We are very excited, and the line-up is looking very good indeed. Please check your diary and book early as we are limited in terms of space, and we are sure this will be a very popular event. The event is already up and running on our [pta-events website](#).
- Our traditional **Christmas Fayre** is back this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, 11am to 4pm.
- Our **Quiz Night** will be back at the school hall on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Our hosts Scott and Gwen will run an enjoyable and fun evening for parents and carers. Doors will be open from 6:30pm and end by 11pm. This event will be on sale from the end of October.
- A **Yard Sale** will go ahead in 2022; the date is to be confirmed. The Yard Sale in 2021 was a total success and it literally lifted the spirits of many in Highams Park.
- **Kylie tribute night**, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022, more information to follow.
- We will have our **Krispy Kreme Sales** on the last day before the Christmas, Easter and Summer breaks at the end of the school day, generally at 2:30pm
- A **school disco** in February, and another **Summer Picnic** are also in the plans.

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