

Friends of School AGM

2018 - 2019 Chariman's Report (Helen Darby-Dowman)

8th July 2019

Cropwell Bishop School FOS is a constituted charity committee made up of parents with teacher representative, working together with the staff to raise funds for the school environments and to provide a programme of entertainment events for the community of the school.

At the AGM the new committee were elected; Helen Darby-Dowman as Chair, Ashleigh Drew as Vice Chair, Helene Brinklow as treasurer, Sarah Trevors as secretary, and Suzy Bulmer as teacher representative. In the meeting that followed Helen Darby-Dowman and Ashleigh Drew shared their proposal for some changes to the FOS set up.

The proposal was based on feedback from over the years with the vision of spreading the work load over a wider group of people, engaging more of the parents and school body and educating them on the purpose and importance of FOS fund raising.

To help with this vision a Class Rep role was introduced and appointed alongside the various existing roles of disco diva, social media officer, film night Rep, easy fundraising, 2nd hand uniform etc.

We've found the Class Rep role helpful with the communication and engagement throughout the school, providing direct communication into class groups. As with anything new it was a bit slow to get going but the roles have proven to be valuable.

Our first meeting following the AGM on 8th November was a great gathering with many new faces, we discussed new ideas and suggestions for events.

The 2018 Stilton Stumble took place just before the new committee was elected: Sarah Breen included the below in her Chairmans November 2018.

Onto October 14th, 2018, Stilton stumble 452 runners on the day, Scouts and FOS working together, good number of volunteers and marshals. Another fantastic (sadly soggy) community event with an incredible hard working committee – huge thanks to Phil McFerran, Susanna Stevenson, Keith and Carolyn Herrington, Sandy Groves, Michelle Oldfield, Andy Travers and Michele Newham. Numerous people on the day and a good FOS effort. Well done all those that ran it too – quickest runner in just over half an hour. Big thanks to our sponsors, NESST and Run Britain, FR Systems, Tony Jarrod for photos. We look forward to hearing about our fundraising totals which will be split with Scouts, as usual. Well done all!

The total profits for the 2018 Stilton Stumble, which were split equally between the Scouts and FOS, was £4,700.00 (a total of £2,350.00 each).

Plans for Stilton Stumble 2019 – our 7th Stilton Stumble - are well under way. The race will be run on Sunday 13th October 2019. We are always looking to keep the Race a friendly and fun race to run. We are re-vamping the Goodie bags – and looking at the possibility of introducing a Race Medal to add to the expected slice of Cropwell Bishop Stilton in the Goody bags! We will need volunteers for all of the above again this year – so please put the date in your diaries. If there is something you particularly would like to do on the day, or if you fancy joining the organising committee, please let Claire (Alex's mum) or myself (Josie's mum) know! Carolyn

Carolyn's full report on the Stilton Stumble is attached.

The autumn events included a disco in October (£266.10) and a Christmas themed film night (Elf) in December where Santa came to visit bringing gifts. The film night saw the first of the changes the new committee have made in the past year with an entrance cost of £5 which included the film, refreshments and a gift. We saw a record number of children, 90 in total bringing in a profit of £350.60. The event was a great success but had some challenges with hosting all 90 children which ranged from class R to 6 in the hall together. Through discussions with Suzy Bulmer we came up with a new format of having two films and splitting KS1 & KS2 for future discos, which proved to be the way forward when we held the Easter Film night in April, which ran very smoothly making (£214.47). Many thanks go to Helen Auty and Suzy Bulmer for the coordination of the film nights.

Sarah Trevors did an excellent job of co-ordinating and organising our Christmas fundraiser with the IQ Cards which brought in a great profit of (£438.30) following the success she's arranged the end of year tea towels and has taken about 150 orders which will lead to around £300 profit. Many thanks to Sarah and all school staff for their help with the art work and administration.

The spring term saw the introduction of a Pub Quiz at the The Plough in Cropwell Butler. Aimi McCaffery and Lucy Gallacher did a fantastic job of organising the event which included a meal, quiz and raffle. It was a sell out and a fabulous success with a profit of (£626).

Disco's in the Spring & Summer terms saw some change with the introduction of the ticket system, these were introduced to help reduce the number of volunteers needed on the night. We also cut back on some of the stalls to simplify the evening. Tickets were £5 per children which included 5 tickets valued at 50p each. The bar has taken off and received positive comments from parents. The feedback from the volunteers was extremely positive with everyone saying it was a lot easier run. We did however receive some negative feedback about the cost of entry and how it may not be accessible for all pupils. We took the feedback on board and made some changes to make sure the May Disco was accessible for all introducing a family ticket at £10 for those with multiple children and an option of purchasing a ticket at £2.50 without tokens. We also changed the timing of the Disco bringing it forward by 30mins which worked better for the younger ones and the older pupils who could then also go to youth club. There was an increase in profits from previous disco's due to the bar takings and the simplification including having addition tokens available to buy. Feb profit - £317.88 May profit - £410.

We received some helpful suggestion from school staff on managing and entrance and exits for future and we will be drawing up a signing in and out protocol.

Thanks to Helen Jepson and Suzy Clayfield for taking on the Disco coordination.

Treat Friday's - Zoe Boon introduced Friday treats which have included cakes, sweets and ice creams sales. These have been well received and raised over £300. Thanks Zoe.

FOS were pleased to provide refreshments at the nativities raising £87 and will be doing the same for the summer show - Thanks go to Ash for co-ordinating these efforts.

We've continued to sell 2nd hand uniform throughout the year and started to look into setting up an eBay account. Helen Fenner has done a great job of sorting through all the boxes and rearranging the storage. The presentation of the stall at the Summer Bonanza received many positive comments and took over £80 on day. Many thanks Helen.

In May, Sandy once again gave us her time and wonderful skills for the KS2 kids and parents Zumba night. Sadly we didn't get a great turnout but those that went had a fabulous time and £54 were raised.

Vicky Openshaw has continued working on the Easy Fund-raising and we are slowly getting more people signing up, this needs to be pushed and shared again. Another Co-op funding application has just gone in too - many thanks Vicky for your continued support.

Newsletters have been sent out termly with an update on fundraisers and events to look out for as well as information on how FOS supports the school. Many thanks to Sarah Trevors for her continued efforts with these.

The Summer Bonanza this year saw a change of date to separate the event from the village weekend. We came up against some negativity around the date change from the parish council and some parents but felt strongly that it would provide us with a stronger opportunity to raise money by extending the timings of the day to go into the evening. The FOS committee wanted to create a greater family event feel to the Summer Bonanza to encourage families to stay. The event saw the introduction of an entry fee which was met with some concerns and negativity, but the FOS family worked hard to share the message and vision for the event. The day was a great success and the new format with the arena based events on the field was just fantastic. A huge thank you needs to go out to all the volunteers who helped on the day and before, it couldn't happen without you. A special mention needs to go to the FOS families and friends who work relentlessly on the day and filled the gaps.

From our successful fundraising this year we have been able to support the school with the purchase of the dividers for the Library, CGP Books, Christmas Presents, Sports Team Kits, Blinds and we will be supporting the school with their lease hire of iPad with supporting educational software and teacher training to be used in the classrooms.

Thank you all again for your support, time and patience this year. We set out to make some changes and at times we questioned if it was the right thing to be doing, however now we are at the end of the school year it is clear that it was and I feel proud of everything we have achieved. Of course it was a massive team effort and only possible due to the support of all the FOS volunteers and school staff.

Here's to 2019 -20, I'm sure it'll be another smasher.

Best of luck

Helen Darby-Dowman
July 2019

Stilton Stumble Report.

The Stilton Stumble is a 10k road race, that is organised jointly by the Cropwell Bishop Scouts and the Cropwell Bishop Primary Friends of the School, and began in 2013! It is affiliated to UK Athletics, and follows the Run Britain . United Kingdom Athletics (UKA) Road Race Medical Services Good Practice Guide. Last years Stilton Stumble took place on Sunday 14th October 2018.

It was a very wet drizzly day...but this did not deter some on-the-day sign ups! A total of 515 runners registered, this was compiled of 188 were affiliated to UK Athletics, 316 were non-affiliated and 11 on the day entries. A total of 452 actually ran on the day and completed the Race. Chip Timing was provided by FR Systems. NESST provided radio support and First Aid for the runners if and when required. We were sponsored by Cropwell Bishop Creamery, Gary Jowetts Butchers, FR Systems, Mars, Blackwood Media Ltd, Potter Clarkson and Lizard Audio & More Vits.

We had over 40 volunteers on the day – broken down as follows:

Signing in / Registration – 3 Adults

Baggage check in – 2 Adults & 2 Cubs

Kitchen – 4 adults and 2 Scouts

Memorial Hall Car Parking – 2 Adults & 5 Scouts

Overflow Car Parking – 2 Adults

Goody Bag Distribution – 3 Adults & 3 Cubs & additional Cropwell School Pupils

Marshalls around the course – 14 Adults

Waterstation – 3 adults & additional children!

Race Director / Hare

Race Tortoise & Sweeper Van

There was a fantastic atmosphere and the feedback after the race was very positive. It is now an annual event in many runners calendars.

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Carolyn Herrington