



# Aldryngton School PTA

## Minutes of PTA Annual General Meeting Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### 1. Present

Stephen Lea, Claire Connell, Anna Neffendorf, Noreen Hashrui, Tanya Newell, Tony Hanson, Sarah Hanson, Simon Feist, John Thompson, Andrew Bickle, Ahmed Nadeem, Shazia Nadeem, Elaine Stewart, Julia Franks, Helen Grieves, Olga Jones, Suresh Kumar, Brian Grieves.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted.

### 3. Chair's report

The last school year has been a busy one both for school and for the PTA. Before enumerating our many and varied fundraising events, I should thank my predecessor as Chair, Graham Begg, for handing over the PTA in excellent working order! As many will know, Graham has moved on to higher things as a Parent Governor at Maiden Erlegh.

Our year's activities got off to a brisk start with the Bhuna and Bingo evening last autumn. Our traditional Bingo evening was spiced up by the very generous donation of an Indian meal for all by our neighbours the Waterfall Restaurant. Thanks to Julia Franks for liaising with them, and to past PTA Chair Chris Bloomfield for turning out once again as our caller.

The Christmas Fayre rather serendipitously doubled up as a celebration of the end of the school's two-day OFSTED inspection – though this did make the final preparations somewhat fraught! It's not possible to thank everyone who contributed to making the Fayre a success but at the risk of giving offence by omission, I would like to thank particularly Julie Culham for stepping in to run the Craft Room; Clare McDonald for organising Upper School into running their usual stalls as an Enterprise Challenge; Avril Kiff on the bottle tombola as ever; Sheetal Tanna and Siama Butt for providing the Indian food and Erika Augusti for organising the more occidental refreshments; several of our Governors for greeting and distributing mulled wine; and of course Father Christmas and his year 7 elves.

In addition to running the Christmas Card scheme for a second year, Rhona Phipps put in some hard work collecting raffle prizes – the PTA is very grateful to those local businesses who gave their support – and also arranging for Christmas Fayre advertising on Martin & Pole's poles. Despite all the disruption in the week running up to the Christmas Fayre, Alice Peacock ran another successful Wrap-a-Present event – I'm always delighted with

what turns up under our tree! Being Wrap-a-Present co-ordinator is a year-round job and I know that Alice has been busy looking for bargain presents throughout the year.

Moving on to the summer term, John Thompson and his team surpassed the achievement of 2011's first Aldryngton Try-a-Tri with the addition of Individual as well as Team events and, to celebrate Olympic year, team GB hopeful Katrina Wootton awarding the prizes. The Try-a-Tri looks likely to become an annual event, adding £2,000 - £3,000 to the PTA's annual fundraising. In addition to all the parent helpers who make this event possible, we're grateful for commercial sponsorship from Cyclezone, Sweatshop, and Mizuno.

The year was rounded off with the biennial visit from Happys Circus, combined with the Summer Fayre – thanks to Lisa Lovell for organising the ticket sales, Avril on the tombola; Alice on refreshments; the Mackenzie – Rackley combo on the bar, ably assisted by Ian Head; and to Simon Feist for getting the skittle alley and coconut shy into working order.

Many Aldryngton children and parents are members of the 84<sup>th</sup> Reading Scout Group so it is fitting that they provided the BBQ at both the Try-a-Tri and Circus – the breakfast butties were essential to many Try-a-Tri performances!

Despite the variable summer weather, I trust members enjoyed the Pool Club – numbers were as good as the previous year, though income suffered a little from the popularity of Single memberships. Thanks to Kirsty Scott, Ian and Liz Parsons, and Sue Beasley for running the Pool Club – especially Sue: this was her last season as her daughter has moved on to Maiden Erlegh. She will be receiving a small token of the PTA's gratitude for all her hard work on behalf of the Pool Club over a number of years.

I must not overlook those events that run throughout the year – the school discos, the smooth running of which is down to Justine Bark's dedication and organisation; and class cake sales, co-ordinated this year by Siama Butt. I should mention especially two innovations this year: second-hand uniform sales, which are flourishing thanks to Vicki Adams' enterprise, and Easyfundraising – thanks to Tanya Newell for setting this up.

Thanks also to the school office staff, Lyn Benham and Helen Durrant, for helping promote the PTA's activities through printing posters, sending out texts and emails, fielding questions... and to our new site controller, George Bridge, for his enthusiasm and practical expertise, particularly with the pool and at Grounds Development working parties.

All these activities have enabled the PTA to fund a wide range of projects around the school. The Treasurer's report itemises all PTA funded purchases made by school in the school's Financial Year to the end of March 2012. Since then, the PTA has committed to providing £2,500 towards new IT equipment in Lower School and £1,500 for phonics teaching resources, releasing £2,500 and £3,000 respectively in matching funding from other organisations, and is committed to providing £2,200 worth of maths and English resources throughout the school, in addition to various smaller items. The fact that the

school is obliged to draw on PTA support for materials for core curriculum provision is a sign of the very difficult circumstances facing even an outstanding school such as Aldryngton.

Finally, I have to thank my fellow committee officers. Simon Feist reports below on his activities as Vice-Chair. Simon Windisch is stepping down as Secretary, having previously taken on the roles of Vice-Chair and Chair. It was always understood that Tanya Newell would be Treasurer for one year only; she has filled that role so efficiently that I've hardly had to think about money at all. I am sure that we are all very grateful to them for the support they have freely given to the PTA and school. Both Simon and Tanya will be receiving a small token of the PTA's thanks.

Stephen Lea

#### **4. Vice-Chair's report**

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the efforts of the PTA during the past year, one which I have thoroughly enjoyed myself. As always it is important to realise the benefits to both the school and its pupils of a proactive PTA and it is nice to reflect on the advances made.

Whilst representing the PTA on the Grounds Development Committee, along with Sarah Hanson, we have contributed to the installation of an outside classroom and as it nears completion I hope it provides a stimulating environment for the teachers to use and the pupils to enjoy. I understand that an article has appeared in a local newspaper and through I have not yet seen it I feel it is important to publicise the school to the wider neighbourhood. I also think improvements such as the repainting of the play train showed what is possible when many people come together with a single goal in mind. My thanks to those who contributed both on the day and during the following weeks.

During a summer when we have seen the positive contribution volunteering can make, most notably at the London Olympics, I hope more parents within the school can be encouraged to join the ranks of the PTA and form a 'community within a community'. There is a certain contentment felt when walking into school every morning and meeting those who also give time to PTA activities. I don't know if it's pride or just a shared satisfaction in being part of a group of likeminded people where our efforts to improve the surroundings for our own children is equalled by the fact that it improves the surroundings for all children at Aldryngton.

The PTA has also raised much needed funds for the school. Not just through traditional means such as last year's circus performance and winter fair but also through newer activities such as the Try-a-Tri organised by John Thompson. Without parent help events such as these would not be possible.

I look forward to the coming year and the task of once again contributing to the shared efforts and aims of all involved.

Simon Feist

## **5. Treasurer's report and the approval of accounts**

A Summary of Accounts 2011-12 was submitted and are available on the PTA website. These were accepted subject to independent examination.

## **6. Head teacher's report**

This AGM is both an opportunity to reflect on, and celebrate the achievements of the previous school year and to look ahead to the forthcoming year with its challenges and opportunities to further strengthen links within the school community.

I'd like to thank our committee members for their time and contribution to meetings and for all their work behind the scenes. This is particularly important bearing in mind our ongoing challenge to achieve a wider spread of active members. Our PTA has a small core of people who drive the committee, however, we are always keen to expand that core! Although events are well-supported in the end, it isn't without some nervous moments during the lead up.

Traditional highlights of the PTA calendar have been as successful as always; Christmas Fayre, infant and junior discos, cake sales and this year, Happy's Circus.

The PTA endeavours to respond to feedback and provide a variety of new events and services for the school community as well as keeping the 'old favourites'. These have included the of the Try-a-Tri event, Christmas Card scheme, Second-Hand Uniform sales, and Easyfundraising. Thanks go to John, Rhona, Vicki, Tanya and the Waterfall restaurant for their input and support.

Of course the school is very grateful to have received continued financial support from the association. School budgets are increasingly tight and PTA support no longer provides the 'good to have items' but provides the 'need to have' elements of the school's provision. We are getting sharper at seeking additional funding opportunities. Most recently literacy materials were purchased on a matched funding basis and our new suite of computers in lower school acquired through a PTA partnership and a parent link with a charity.

The PTA contributes to all walks of school life not just fundraising and the provision of social events. It works in close partnership with the school in many ways including the running of the swimming pool. Members also provide support during school events such as Sports Day, fund the leavers' party, contribute to Grounds development group meetings and attend the New Parents' meetings.

I hope the coming year will be as eventful and enjoyable as last year, with hopefully many new faces with skills, energy and time to give the school and its wider community.

Elaine Stewart

## **7. Election of Chair**

At this stage the Chair of the meeting passed to Mrs Stewart.

Election of Chair: Stephen Lea was proposed by Noreen Hashrui and seconded by John Thompson. Appointed.

## 8. Election of Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Election of Vice Chair: Simon Feist was proposed by Sarah Hanson and seconded by John Thompson. Appointed.

Election of Secretary: Anna Neffendorf was proposed by Tanya Newell and seconded by John Thompson. Appointed.

Election of Treasurer: Claire Connell was proposed by Stephen Lea and seconded by John Thompson. Appointed.

## 9. Filling of other roles

Stephen Lea confirmed those willing to oversee various activities

Pool Club	Kirsty Scott
Discos	Justine Bark
Wrap-a-present	Alice Peacock
Second hand uniforms	Vikki Adams
Christmas cards	Rhona Phipps
Grounds Development Committee	Sarah Hanson, Simon Feist
Staff representatives	Elaine Stewart, Julia Franks
Cake sales	TBC

It was felt that a new position of PTA linked 'Classroom representative' would be beneficial. The aim would be for the individual to help coordinate PTA activities at a local classroom level, not just supporting activities but also being involved in directing the expenditure of funds. This will be discussed during the next PTA meeting.

## 10. Motion: to change the registered name of the charity to "Aldryngton School PTA"

Stephen Lea proposed changing the name registered with the Charity Commission, 'Aldryngton County Primary School Parent Teacher Association', as it was "a little outdated". The new name of 'Aldryngton School PTA' was suggested. This motion was passed by all present.

## 11. Any other business

- Elaine Stewart noted the International Week, including fashion show, was a great success with both parents and children and suggested it should be held again.
- John Thompson suggested that the Try-a-Tri could be expanded to a second day when local schools would be invited to compete. Other schools would be able to enter teams of 60 children in a 'cross school competition'. An entry fee would be charged to participating children towards Aldryngton PTA funds. They in turn would be able to raise sponsorship for their own schools.
- John Thompson proposed organising an 'Earley 10k road race' around the local area. An entry fee would be charged for PTA funds and if a network of volunteers could be raised

from local schools they too could help organise the event and raise funds for their own schools.

- It was suggested the PTA could approach local supermarkets to raise funds from their community projects. Many supermarkets offer tokens at their tills which shoppers can choose to deposit into boxes for charitable causes.
- The possibility of participating in the years 'World Book Day' was suggested.
- There is a schools link with the Book People available. This would raise funds through parents purchasing books via Aldryngton with monies raised going towards PTA activities.
- An expansion of school clubs was put forward. Parents with specialist knowledge or abilities would run activities with participation fees going towards PTA funds. During discussions it was realised there were not many time slots available to run additional activities.
- A Quiz Night was suggested for this term.
- A 'Great Egg race' type event was suggested. This would aim to encourage budding engineers and scientists to create machines which would transport an egg the furthest distance without breaking.

## **12. Date of next PTA meeting**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in the Staffroom Annex.