

## Chairmans Annual Report 2008/2009

We were very pleased to begin the Friends year by welcoming five new members onto our committee -James Leese, Ski Evans, Lynda Kidwell, Louise Fletcher and Steve Wilkes - which took our numbers up to a very healthy 19. The committee that steered us through the years events was made up of:

### **Elected Officers;**

Julie Hopgood - Chair  
James Leese - Vice Chair  
Hayley Richards - Treasurer  
Sue Bennett - Secretary

### **General Members;**

Lara Davey	Mark Lillicrop
Michelle Mansfield	Cath Eaden
Louise Whelan	Louise Fletcher
Jonathon Hatch	Lydia Garfield
Ski Evans	Paula Slater
Lynda Kidwell	Celia Cook
Steve Wilkes	Nigel Rolph

The team worked hard together to make sure the year was full of fun events for all the family. From Beetle Drives to BBQ's and quiz nights to cake stalls our year was packed with events focussed on raising money for much needed outdoor play equipment for all year groups to use.

The Summer Fayre was a great success. Thanks to all the keen parents we had more stalls than ever before - over 40! As a new venture we tried corporate sponsorship, to see if we could raise enough money to hire something special usually out of our grasp! We have very generous parents and with the help of the following

companies - Silverlining Estate Planning, Hood & Joy Builders, Wright & Bell Builders, Applebuild, Morely Farm Barn Livery Yard and Greenthumb Lawn Treatment, we were able to hire a six bed trampoline which was a great hit. We also had a gorgeous hand made textiles stall and a gruesome (but popular!) Poo in a Loo sideshow!

The Summer BBQ saw changes too. For the first time we had the Red Rose Chain Theatre group to host a workshop. This was a wonderful experience for the children that took part and something we hope to expand on at this years BBQ. Also for the first time we had a member of staff providing the music all evening - the very talented Mrs Petts. As I type this we are awaiting news of baby Petts arrival!

This term in addition to our usual events we have added a couple of new ones. We had a Race Night, organized brilliantly by Louise Fletcher and on the 19th November we are having our first Christmas Craft Fayre, (There may be a very special man in a red suit attending this...!) Paula Slater is working hard organizing a Silent Auction too. This year to date we have raised in the region of £6500, which is staggering given the size of the school. At an open evening at Farlingaye I learned that their PTA raises the almost the same amount of money per year as we do!

Our events are only as successful as the support we receive from all of you. So I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thankyou to all the children, parents and staff. Your enthusiasm and generosity has enabled us to go ahead with plans for an amazing Buccaneer Pirate Ship in the playground, which we aim to have in place by Christmas. In addition to this we have been able to help with the costs of Science Week, Creative Arts Week, Seckford Theatre Production, Thornham Walks, Owl Week and the School Council.

I would also like to thank all of the committee, who work tirelessly behind the scenes. In particular I would like to thank

our Treasurer Hayley Richards. It's a job that is a big responsibility, involves a lot of work and is a position on the committee which most people understandably shy away from. She does it so well we are making her do it for another year! I would also like to give Sue Bennett a special mention as although she is remaining on the committee she is stepping down from the role of secretary. Sue has done this admirably for more years than either of us care to remember, along with the compiling of our Summer Fayre Brochure, so thank you Sue!

Sadly as always we say a few goodbyes to a few committee members moving on - Lara Davey, Cath Eaden, Lydia Garfield, Celia Cook and Steve Wilkes. They have either moved on to new schools or have other commitments but a big thank you for everything you have done for Friends - some for many years.

On a happier note a few weeks ago we were very lucky to co-opt five new members onto Friends - Niki Field, Karen Wilkes, Antonina Bickerton, Andy Vines and Katy Darnell. We look forward to working with you and sharing new ideas. Niki is going to be our new Secretary - thank you Niki!

We will continue to work hard to put the fun into fundraising, keeping all the old favourite events and adding a few new ones along the way. We look forward to your continued support in 2010 and seeing what else we can put in the playground with the pirate ship!

Julie Hopgood  
Chair