

Friends of Westgate Meeting

Fleece Pub

7.30pm 18/11/2013

Present: Claire Marsh, Andrew Ross, Victoria Mirfield, Helen Carpenter, Joanne Hattersley, Liz Bownes, Wendy Forde, Laurel Chambers, Charlotte Evans, Hannah Webster, Sarah Fuller, Laura Martin, Sarah McBrinn, Catherine Ogilvie, Hannah Morley, Kevin Jacobs, Cathy Macdonald.

1) Welcome and introductions were carried out for benefit of a new member, Hannah Webster.

Apologies for absence: Debbie Parapia and Helen Jackson.

2) Minutes of 16/09/13 approved with amendment that Sarah Fuller had sent apologies.

Some concerns were raised about the FoW Facebook page. It was agreed that it was excellent at promoting forthcoming events both but should not be used for advertising or general discussion about school issues and Claire will discuss with Helen Jackson.

3) Feedback from recent events:

a) *Scholastic Book Stall*. Thanks to Cathy and all her helpers for raising a fantastic £800. This was considerably up on last year and meant that the proportion for school to spend on books was £500. Good idea to have on parents evening and the magical map competition was very successful. However there was a lively debate about the future of the stall with feedback that people felt pressured into spending and the books being too expensive. Several suggestions made including approaching local book sellers to run a stall and Cathy will discuss with Scholastic about potentially cheaper items.

b) *Cake Stall*. Thanks to Hannah, Wendy and team. >£200 raised which Mrs Hattersley reported is being used to sponsor a child in Nepal. The pick and mix cakes proved very popular.

c) *Curry Evening*. Again well attended and a good amount raised, £300. Thank you to Debbie for organising. Some felt that September was a difficult month as families have a lot of outgoings but others felt that it is good to have a social occasion early on. Others felt a different venue could be used or a different type of social event (e.g. maybe the brewery tour discussed below). These issues will be further addressed at future meetings.

d) *Rag Bag*. Simple and effective. Thank you Jo Newell. Plans to repeat in March.

e) *Orienteering*. Thanks Sarah for a really fun afternoon despite the rain. £193 raised to date, although need to encourage more gift aid. Again much discussion about which month to hold in, if should be sponsor forms or pay to enter, if changes could be made to accommodate the younger children, ways to raise awareness as some people unaware what orienteering is? Overall it was felt that it is a good family event and should continue in autumn.

f) *Beetle Drive*. Fun and simple, thanks to the staff for running it. Nearly £150 raised which has been donated to the Philippines Relief Appeal.

4) Forthcoming Events

- a) *Victorian Fayre*. A meeting was held prior to this one and everything is in hand. A sign up sheet is available for any volunteers to help on the day and any donations of mince pies, other baking or craft items to sell will be much appreciated.
- b) *December gifts*. Laura kindly volunteered to purchase and wrapping will be done at Hannah Morley's.
- c) *Disco*. A date of Jan 30th agreed. Debbie will be asked to book Silly Brothers and Laurel will be organizing sending out a letter and co-ordinating volunteers, drinks etc.
- d) *Easter Fair*. Suggested date 29th March.

5) Proposal for school clothing resale facility. This idea was enthusiastically received. A stock needs to be built up and there is potential for storage with Sarah Fuller. Simple pricing with proportion to FoW and potential for clothing swaps or given to those in real need. The March consultation evenings could be a potential first event.

6) AOB

Becky Berry has offered to arrange occasional collections for the Otley Food Bank especially as Christmas approaches and local people may be struggling.

Liz has put in the Christmas card orders.

Further discussion around an extra social event (or instead of curry evening) with a tour of Wharfedale Brewery followed by lunch at the Fleece. Andrew will investigate.

Date of next meeting: Monday, January 20th 2014