

Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy

AGM 23 February 2023

Chairperson's Report

Our last AGM was 10 January 2022.

After the first half of 2022 getting off to a slow start, still having Covid restrictions, the second half of 2022 was much better and things finally started to feel a little bit more normal again (after the previous 2 years events being cancelled, or postponed).

In February, we changed our name from 'CCA' (Community Cultivation Alliance) to a name that we felt was more fitting of what our group has now become – 'Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy'.

We held an EGM on 9 March to adopt our first 'Constitution' (which is an important governing document that sets out the fundamental rules and procedures our committee members must follow when managing Friends of WFA).

We were then finally able to hold our first school event on Friday 6 May and there was no better person to run it than the crazy Nutty Noah. It was quite nerve-wracking organising an event after such a long period – would we have enough children attend to (at least) pay for Nutty Noah?! However, we need not have worried, as it was a massive success! Driving from my house to school before the event to help with the setting up, I saw so many children being walked to school, and the queue outside the gate was so long! I did feel really quite emotional after 2 years of no events to see the excitement and happiness on all the children's faces. It was amazing!

Then 2 weeks later, we held a Disco – in the light! We are only used to holding Christmas Disco's (in the dark and cold!) Again, this was a big success and it was just great to get all the children back together socialising after such a long time!

We had forgotten how much work the summer fair involves but wow! What a fair! It's always the big event of the year and after 2 years of no summer fair, we came back with a bang! The new 'Name the Teddy' and 'Teddy tombola' stalls were a big hit (with the kids anyway!)

It's also great to be able to have our regular year group cake sales back in the calendar – being ran termly in the cafe after school.

Christmas was very crazy! So many events! In addition, a couple of new events we joined in with too.

Our 'Children's Christmas Shop' is now known as 'Elfridges'. This was the biggest amount of work out of all of our Christmas events with over 600 gifts being bought, wrapped and laid out at school the night before the big day! But it's well worth it, seeing the excited looks and all the little conversations that the children have with us and each other when they are choosing a surprise gift (and writing out their Christmas gift tags) for someone special to give to them at Christmas, it really is magical.

We also helped WFA at the new 'Made for Christmas' event, running a refreshments & Christmas jumper stall. We also organised a 'Name the Elf' competition where a giant Elf was the prize! The Elf was bigger than the child who won it! The look on her face running out of school with it was just priceless!!! (I don't think her Mum thought the same thing though!).

Due to the success of last year's Aladdin digital panto, we decided to pay for a Digital panto again this year for all the children to enjoy. This year's was 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which I heard was really fun!

We also ran a tombola stall at Boston Tea Party's Christmas fair as well as running a Christmas Disco and helping year 3 hold the final cake sale of 2022!

Pre-Covid we funded a recording device for a new WFA radio club to be set up for year 5's and 6's. This has now been set up and runs after school on a Thursday. If you would like to hear the episodes recorded from these sessions, then the link for episode 2 was emailed round on the 'Friday dates' email which was sent on 10 February.

Thankfully, the year 6 leavers were able to have their camping trip in 2022 (after the disappointment of the 2021 leavers missing out on this 😞). FWFA donated £500 of our funds towards the cost of this trip. FWFA have committed to donate £500 every year towards a school run year 6 leavers activity.

We also held ice lolly sales after school in the summer and (for the second year running) made up 'new starter packs' which were given out to all new Reception parents/carers on their child's first day at school. It's a little bag filled with a few items to help new parents get through their child's first day of school as it can be an emotional time!

In addition to all of the above, to raise extra funds we have also done the following:

- 1) Taken part in a couple of Parentkind 'Big PTA Raffles'; and
- 2) Registered with 'Easy fundraising'. Easy fundraising is so easy to set up. Each time you spend with a partnering retailer (there are over 7,000 brands who participate), it will donate some money to FWFA. Such an easy way to make money! Follow this link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and then search for 'Wallscourt Farm Academy' to sign up for a free account.

As we are now in 2023, we are looking to organise events!

QUIZ NIGHT!

We are hoping to run another adult only BYO quiz night (again, another annual event we used to run pre Covid). It's held on a Friday night 7-10pm and food is included in the ticket price. It's great fun! However, our usual quizmaster unfortunately is not able to help this year, so if anyone would like to help out and be our 'Quizmaster' (or if you know anyone who would love to help) then please contact us friends@wfa.clf.uk. We would be ever so grateful!

SUMMER FAIR!

Let's not forget our summer fair, which is our biggest, most profitable, and everyone's favourite event of the year.

We are currently starting to organise the summer fair for this year and the date for everyone's diaries is **Saturday 24 June midday – 3pm** so make sure you keep that date free! We'll be after loads of help to make this as successful as we can, so please volunteer if you can.

OUR AIM

Last year we funded the mile track, Compass and 100 square grid. It was a big expensive (over £2,000) but it's something that the children use daily and as it's a blank canvas it's so versatile and is fabulous for their learning. This year we are hoping to expand on this and get some more outdoor play equipment with the money raised. We are currently in discussion with Ms Black about this and more details of this will follow.

Claire will run you through the Treasurer Report, which is looking a lot healthier than it has done over the last 2 years. As always, any additional funds we raise will be able to provide additional equipment/resources to help enrich and educate our children.

PLEASE JOIN US!

We are always after new members to join us – we are a small and very friendly bunch of people.

Sadly, the size of the FWFA has decreased over the last couple of years due to the fact we have had members leave as their children leave Wallscourt. This hasn't helped with us not having many meetings due to Covid, but this is something that is getting back to normal now.

We have had a few new people join us and pop along to our meetings, which is great! We love having new people join us and come up with fresh new ideas. However, we need more of you to join!

There are a few of us who have children in year 5 and so to ensure FWFA is still up and running when we leave next year we really need some new faces to help come up with ideas and organising events to take over when we leave. It would be so sad for FWFA to fold after all our years of hard work.

The meetings are mainly held termly (although more often when a big event is coming up i.e. the summer fair).

Being part of the FWFA is very rewarding and extremely flexible. You don't have to attend every single meeting, or any meeting for that matter! There are always other ways you can get involved, for example if you could help volunteer for any events we hold in any way, no matter how big or small it is very much appreciated.

I would like to say a big thank all of the members of the FWFA for their hard work and dedication over the last year, and also all of you parents/carers and children who have helped with events by either volunteering or spending money.

I am very excited to see what we can achieve and what events we can hold in 2023.

Mandie Millett

FWFA Chairperson

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