



## Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy AGM 4 March 2024

### Chairperson's Report

Our last AGM was 23 February 2023.

As we have now moved into the 11<sup>th</sup> year of FWFA's (previously CCA's) existence, thinking back of all the events we have organised, money raised and items we have purchased for the children of Wallscourt Farm Academy, it certainly has been an exciting journey and we should be very proud of what we have achieved.

Last year, we did not organise any new events but even so, I think this was our most profitable year! We were kept busy with our usual events and, in addition, we have now taken back on the organising of all the pre-loved uniform, which is quite a task! So, if anyone needs any uniform, then please let us know.

We also have a new 'Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy' logo (above) and have started sending quarterly Newsletters round, so you can all see what we're up to!

Last year we organised the following events:

- Termly Cake and pre loved uniform sales
- Quiz
- Summer fair
- Elfridges
- Made for Xmas

We also purchased/helped fund the following:

- New starter packs to welcome all of the families starting in Oak
- Updated the Wet play boxes for all of KS1 and KS2
- A sparkly new gas BBQ to be used at the summer fair and any other events.
- Purchased 2 brand new 12ft x 6ft aluminium football goals. These are really good quality, and should last for years!
- Purchased 2 nets of 10 footballs – One set for KS1 and one for KS2
- Purchased Head-microphones x 4 - For those of you who watched the Oak Nativity and the Christmas Sing-alongs, these head-mics were used and it made such a difference to the children's performance!
- 10 year anniversary - We funded all of the food, drink and the face-painting
- Donated £500 to the Year 6 leavers – This was put towards the cost of the camp coach. This year we are looking into trying something different and fun with our Year 6 donation – further advices will follow.

Events we currently have planned for 2024 are:

#### **QUIZ NIGHT:**

Our annual adult only quiz night is being held in school this Friday. We are doing something different this year and not including food, but it's a bargain at only £4 a ticket, which includes nibbles, a raffle ticket, some great raffle prizes! And the winning team gets to treat themselves for a meal and drinks for 4 people in BTP. It's always such a fun night. Tickets are still available.

**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 29 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.

**CAKE AND PRE LOVED UNIFORM SALE:**

Every term each year group takes it in turn to hold a cake and pre loved uniform sale. These are held on a Wednesday in the cafe straight after school.

**NEW EVENTS:**

If anyone has any suggestions for new events they would like to see us organise, then please let us know (either in person, email or our Facebook page).

**EASY FUNDRAISING:**

In addition to all of the above, to raise extra funds we have also 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.

**OUR AIM**

We are currently in discussion with Ms Black about how our FWFA funds can be spent. The first spend of this year will be helping to purchase books for all year groups. We are also hoping to put some money towards a joint venture with Wallscourt Farm Academy towards something BIG! Further news will follow with regards to this.

Claire will run you through the Treasurer Report, which is the healthiest it's ever been! As always, any profit we make from all of our events will be used to provide additional equipment/resources to help enrich and educate our children.

**PERSONAL NOTE:**

With my youngest daughter leaving Wallscourt this year to join Abbeywood in September, it is now time for me to hang up my Chair Person's boots! So the rest of the report will be to tell you all about my experience being in this wonderful group.

When my eldest daughter joined Wallscourt in 2014, my husband and I attended our first quiz/curry night on Friday 6 March 2015 where some of the CCA members persuaded me to go along to their next meeting. I was a bit nervous at first, and didn't know what to expect or even know many of the CCA team, but I am so glad I did, as from that moment on I was hooked!

My oldest daughter (who was in Oak at the time) was so excited I was part of this group where she could give me ideas for events, and see the benefit of how all the money we raised went towards buying the children things in school.

She is now in Year 9 at Abbeywood, and she has put herself forward to be involved in different 'Ambassador' roles each year. She is also involved in events to raise money for Abbeywood and loves helping others. I would like to think part of this is down to her seeing how fulfilling it is from her experience of all the work FWFA (CCA) did whilst she was at Wallscourt. (Note from me (said daughter) whilst reading this through, this is very true!)

I became Secretary and then finally Chair in November 2019 when our first Chair left. I did have some big boots to fill, as Dave (Hounsome) was such an Oracle! But, with a strong team with me, we all got through it!

Last December, I felt quite sad thinking it would be the last time I would help organise Elfridges. This event (as well as the summer fair) is definitely one of my highlights being part of FWFA. All our Elves work so hard to make this event a big success - with almost 500 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 for someone special to give to them at Christmas, it really is magical. A memory I will never forget.

Although I will still be part of FWFA until the end of the school year and will help the team in whichever way I can, including still organising my favourite event of the year – the summer fair!

To think that all those years ago I would now be Chair seems quite surreal. Looking back through Dave's previous AGM notes, I will leave you with some of the history of the CCA (below) as I feel this is such an important part of FWFA'S journey to show how we are where we are today...

As normal, I would like to say a big thank all of the members of the FWFA for their hard work and dedication, and also all families and children who have helped with events by either volunteering or spending money. This isn't just a thank you for over the last year, this is a thank you to all the years all of you have all been supporting us raise money for the children of Wallscourt.

And I would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all of you for putting up with my numerous Facebook posts, WhatsApp messages and emails nagging for donations and volunteers over the years!

I will still stay in touch and my daughters are both still very keen to come to the summer fairs (and any other community events), so you won't get rid of us that easily!

#### **PLEASE JOIN US!**

Just one final plea before I step down as Chair.

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 rapidly decreased over the last couple of years due to the fact we have had members leave as their children leave Wallscourt. This year we will be losing another 4 members due to our children starting secondary school so this will only leave 5 Members.

*It is so important to ensure FWFA is still up and running when 4 of us leave in 4 months' time, we really need some new faces to help come up with ideas and organise events. It would be so sad for FWFA to fold after all our years of hard work and all the money that has been raised.*

*If you and your child/ren love events such as the Summer Fair, Elfridges and cakes sales, then please please come along and help. Without members, the FWFA will not be able to exist and these events will not be able to take place. Which also means less funds being raised for the children of Wallscourt.*

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.

We are also now alternating meetings between in person at school and online, to make it more flexible for those of you who cannot make the in person ones. Have a look at the Friday dates email school email round with details of all of our meeting dates and events.

Thanks again.

Over and out!

*Mandie Millett*

FWFA Chairperson 2019-2024

CCA/FWFA Member 2015-2024

Please like and follow our [Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy – FWFA](#) Facebook page

Email us on [friends@wfa.clf.uk](mailto:friends@wfa.clf.uk)

## **HISTORY OF CCA/FWFA:**

When the school first opened, there were only two classes of reception children in the building. All the school equipment was brand new and there was plenty of space and individual attention to sustain the children's needs, so why did the school need a PTA? It didn't! It didn't need regular bake sales and other fundraising activities to supplement what was provided by the school's standard budget, but the Principal at the time, Miss Weaver, did identify one thing that couldn't be bought; a sense of Community. We needed a Community Cultivation Alliance (CCA).

For the first few years the focus of the CCA was to bring all the parents and children together socially. Most children were not from the local Cheswick estate and some travelled quite far to attend school, so events were planned and held to bring everyone closer together. Profit from one event was spent on the next and at the end of each year, the CCA just broke even. Events included a Family dining experience (spaghetti and meatballs!), bedtime stories with the teachers, the start of the now regular quiz nights and a visit from the awesome Nutty Noah. The first school fair had a carnival theme and was opened with a performance from a local marching band.

As the school grew so did the size and plans of the CCA, regular cake sales, a School Disco and an ever growing summer fair dominated the calendar, with the same few 'Planning Owls' organising and running everything. Every now and then 'Worker Bees' were drafted in to help run stalls and we had our every ready 'Network Spiders' on hand to provide small pieces of vital support in whatever manner they could; designing posters, baking cakes or even cutting up fruit.

In 2017, the CCA hit full PTA status. We elected members into our first named roles, took control of our own finances and this is now our second public AGM. We now have a bank balance which means we can cover up front costs of bigger events and most importantly we are investing in the well-being of the children of the school, helping to make their daily school life better in whatever way we can.

Then:

- February 2022 was when we changed our name from 'CCA' (Community Cultivation Alliance) to 'Friends of Wallscourt Farm Academy'.
- We then held an EGM on 9 March 2022 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).