



GREAT DUNMOW PRIMARY SCHOOL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
AGM 23rd September 2009 : A year in the life of GDPSFA

This year began with Mel Casey and Claire Woosey taking up the vacant posts of Chair and Treasurer alongside serving Secretary Ann Linwood and Valiant vice Chair Kate Flynn. Lisa Scott and Karen Duffy added their names to the terrific core committee of Sarah Baker, Amanda Thompson and Jennifer Davis. The dedication and commitment of this team and the band of regular helpers who always rocked up to lend a hand, is an example of community spirit to be admired and applauded.

In the ensuing months, some traditional fundraising events were interspersed with a few brave new ideas. The results of a parents' questionnaire helped determine the events selected.

The **Halloween Extravaganza**, **Christmas Bazaar**, **Pantomime** all loved by the children and **Bags 2 school**, beloved by all with garages packed with outgrown clothes and toys, proved their usual popular and successful selves in the first term. The new **Christmas Fayre** incorporated a selection of craft and gift stalls from the Christmas shopping evening and the annual Christmas Raffle, combining them with children's games, Tombola, World Class Santa's grotto and a Christmas café.

The New Year brought the favourite family **Bingo night**, more **Bags 2 School** and the **Easter Bunny Hunt**. The latter was lucky enough to escape the showers of the previous year, but there were a few melting moments in the prize egg pile as the bunny hunters completed the course.

The summer term heralded our first **fashion show** with pupils and staff modeling on the catwalk and the audience diving amongst the sale rails afterwards. The **Sports Day refreshments** proved a relative little goldmine and the year finished with a new Credit Crunch/hard to get help, **Family funday**. The summer raffle was incorporated into the Funday and families enjoyed their own picnics on the field at a back to basics afternoon in the sun.

Throughout the three terms, Amanda ran the regular **uniform shop**, which provided an excellent service and swelled the coffers to boot.

The Committee met regularly throughout the year and used its own and the school's newsletters to communicate with families. Face to face conversations in the playground and during events were useful opportunities to gain feedback, always a mixture of good and rather less positive comments and suggestions. A debrief came after each event and notes were made on suggested improvements for "next time". These can be read in the minutes taken at every meeting.

The committee worked hard, remained focused on its objectives but open to suggestion. In the coming year the Committee will seek to benefit from the experiences of the past 12 months and to evolve its calendar of events in order to promote and honour the good will and support of the families and staff of Great Dunmow Primary school, so vital to ensuring the success of each event and its consequent benefit to the school community.

The Treasurer's report details the financial outcome of each event and how monies have been allocated.

Mel Casey.

