

Chair's report from the AGM:

October 2024

It's been a busy year with the core PTFA Committee working hard on the ideas and planning, but a fantastic number of other parents volunteering to help out at the events themselves. A huge thank you to all those who have volunteered their time and energy, we simply couldn't run the events without them.

This model of a key planning team then asking volunteers to come to events on the day seems to work well. The sign-up sheets at Parents Evening early in the year were a good idea, supplemented with messages and coordination via what's app groups.

The old favourites of film nights and Winter and Spring discos were a hit as usual; they are also relatively easy to organise and to recruit helpers for. The Christmas Fayre went well (although note that everyone bought hot chocolate and no mulled wine!) and the Christmas and Easter hampers were as popular as ever.

It was nice to be able to buy an Easter egg for every pupil at the end of the spring term.

We did attempt a different sort of event this year, planning an Adults Old Skool Disco; but unfortunately it turned out very difficult to sell tickets - even after teaming up with the Charlton Playing Fields Committee we couldn't attract enough people to make it financially viable; it seems people just don't want to socialise in this way.

We did have a big hit however with the School Sleepover in late April with a big take up and the children having a wonderful time. Though it was a major commitment from the staff, with not much sleep involved!

Family Enterprise was a success once again this year, as was the Mud Run - selling ice lollies after the mud run makes a good profit! The decision to 'rattle buckets' rather than do sponsorship forms worked well.

We then finished the year with the double whammy over three days of the Year 5/6 production refreshments followed by the Charlton fete cake stall. Both took quite a lot of organising and manpower on the day, but raised great sums of money.

We have some particular enthusiasm amongst the newer Year 2, 1 and Reception parents to help out at events (and maybe even join the committee!) so we're confident we have another good year on our hands, with some lovely events and plenty of funds raised to contribute in particular to school trip costs and books for the children.