Chairman’s report 2017

This year has been an incredibly busy year for us and what a way to end it with a Wild West themed Summer Fete! I would like to firstly thank our committee members for all their hard work throughout the year they have done an amazing job and have been an absolute pleasure to work with. I would also like to thank our very supportive parents and school staff, the ethos and team spirit of Ferncumbe really shone at all our events. This resulted in a very successful year, we have also been blessed with good weather, and as a result we have raised a lot of money for our school as well as having fun with friends and family.

This school year began in September with our traditional Ferncumbe Family BBQ This is a very well supported event where parents and staff come together and we welcome our new reception families. A very big thank you must go out to The Whole Hog Pig Roast Company - Paul and Janet who have supported Ferncumbe’s events for many years. They run a fabulous BBQ and we look forward to their continued support for many more to come.

Back by popular demand in November we ran the Movie Night, this time we had 3 full cinema’s running with plenty of popcorn and drinks for all! Friends also organise the filming of the schools christmas nativity DVD’s, Ferncumbe school Calendars, and Christmas Cards designed by the children. They are extremely popular with parents and we shall continue to provide this for them.

In February, Ferncumbe rocked with their annual School Disco! This again is another popular event and we were fortunate to have Mr Kitney join the children on the dance floor! A lot of planning and help from parents goes into this event. A huge thank you to all those who were involved in helping keep our children safe.

Our annual Easter Bingo was once again a success! There were lots of Chocolate Easter Eggs to be won and many fantastic raffle prizes donated by local companies. These included; a meal for 8 by It’s Thyme, a meal for 2 at the Hatton Arms, a voucher for Stock Pot Cafe, and many more. It was a really lovely evening, the feedback was extremely positive and the fish and chips were delicious!

Our main event of the year is our Summer Fete and this year’s theme Wild West, even had a hot sunny day to match! The children enjoyed many different Wild West themed games and stalls, we even had a fabulous live country band “The Hounds”, which the children to danced to in the sunshine. It was fantastic to see our stallholders dressing up, they went to great efforts designing and creating fun themed stalls and games! I was also especially proud to hear from our now regular Ice-Cream lady “Annie’s Ice-Creams, how well mannered and polite the children were from Ferncumbe! A job well done everyone and thank you to all who came along and supported the event!

Our sports day and Farmers market are our final events of the year, Friends provide teas and coffee and ice-creams for sale at sports day and run a tea and cake stall for the farmers market. Once again we had wonderful warm weather which meant the ice-creams were very popular. Thank you to all who came along and supported both events.

One of the aims of Friends is to raise funds for the extras, above and beyond what the school is able to provide within their existing budget as well as organising memorable events that will provide our children with the best possible experience of school. We are unable to achieve any of this without the support of our parents, whether as committee members, occasional volunteers at our events or simply coming along in support of our events.

The money raised by Friends goes straight back into the school for the benefit of our children. This last financial year (2016/2017) Friends have contributed to buses for Christmas Pantomime trips, enrichment, year 6 leavers party, christmas presents, Monkey Bars for their playground, Bikeability contribution, New Freezer for practical area, Bottom Rug for year 1 and repairs to Melissa’s gift. This current year along with making our regular annual contributions I have had the pleasure of working with the school council who have helped identify areas in need of repair in their playground and worked with the school to see repairs being made and equipment being replaced by Friends. So far this year Friends have replaced a broken wooden train and installed a new traverse log for them.

The Friends committee meet at the beginning of the year with our head teacher, Miss Sally Morris, to agree our fundraising goals and events we will run throughout the year. We also hold meetings at least once every term and event planning meetings throughout the year. All dates and any information are in the Ferncumbe School newsletters, text and email messages from school, the school website, and The Ferncumbe Family facebook site. We welcome any views and comments from parents either in person or via the Friends email address - thefriendsofferncumbe@gmail.com

Finally thank you again to all our committee members this year for all your commitment and support. You have all done a fantastic job! The entire committee will be standing down and I am also very pleased to hear many of you are willing to stand again to be re-elected for another year along with a few new faces!

Wishing you all a fantastic summer.

Tamson Lepper

Friends Chairman July 2017